Bengaluru Wednesday, May 27, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 146 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

# RCB storm into IPL final

**Rajat's blazing knock floors GT**

*Page 14*

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and EAM S Jaishankar, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

# Quad to invest $20bn for critical minerals

**Move will challenge China's monopoly in processing, refining and supply**

> It will strengthen resilience and diversify supply chains, help us to collaborate and finance, and effectively manage the critical minerals and rare earths
>
> **S Jaishankar**
> External Affairs Minister

**ANIRBAN BHAUMIK**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and the United States on Tuesday signed a bilateral framework, alongside a four-nation arrangement with Japan and Australia, to lessen dependence on China and challenge its near-monopoly on the processing, refining and supply of critical minerals essential for advanced technologies, clean energy and defence manufacturing.

The four nations pledged to mobilise up to $20 billion in government and private sector support through new and existing efforts to strengthen critical minerals supply chains, including in mining, processing, and recycling.

A meeting of the foreign ministers of the Quad also saw India, Japan, Australia and the US launch an Indo-Pacific Energy Security Initiative, in view of the disruptions caused by the conflict in West Asia in the global supply of oil, gas, and petrochemical products, as well as of essential goods and critical downstream derivatives, such as fertilisers, and implications of the crises in the Indo-Pacific region.

The India-United States framework for cooperation in critical minerals aims to deepen bilateral cooperation covering the entire critical minerals and rare earth supply chain.

▸ **Critical minerals, Page 8**

# Siddu to step down as CM after Cong says time's up

**POWER PLAY:** To quit today or tomorrow; CLP meet in 2 days

**AJITH ATHRADY & PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR**
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress high command on Tuesday decisively stepped in to end the festering leadership issues in Karnataka, asking Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to pave the way for a transition of power in the state.

Siddaramaiah is likely to resign on Wednesday or Thursday. The Congress Legislative Party meeting is likely to be held on Thursday or Friday to elect the new leader.

Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and General Secretary (in charge of Karnataka) Randeep Surjewala will arrive in Bengaluru on Wednesday to oversee the smooth transition of power.

The CM, who returned to Bengaluru on Tuesday night, is likely to hold a press conference on Wednesday to disclose his decision to resign. He will hold a breakfast meeting with his Cabinet colleagues on Wednesday morning.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi held a closed-door meeting with Siddaramaiah lasting over 40 minutes at the party headquarters in Delhi. During this meeting, he reportedly tried to impress upon the veteran leader the need to agree to a generational shift in the Karnataka Congress.

The Congress leadership has not yet indicated who will replace Siddaramaiah.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has been actively lobbying for the post, while other names doing the rounds include Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader G Parameshwara.

Shivakumar will return to Bengaluru on Wednesday.

▸ **Siddaramaiah, Page 8**
**Related report on Page 9**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (L) and his deputy D K Shivakumar (R) with Congress MP K C Venugopal in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

**The likely successors**

D K Shivakumar

G Parameshwara

Mallikarjun Kharge

## Decision leaves CM shocked

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was reportedly left shell-shocked after top Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, asked him to step down as chief minister of Karnataka, sources said on Tuesday.

Details on Page 5

## Poll on June 18 for 7 MLC seats

Biennial polls for seven MLC slots in Karnataka will be held on June 18, the Election Commission of India announced on Tuesday. The ECI announced that June 8 will be the last date to submit nominations. Counting of votes will be held on 18.

Details on Page 5

# Teen pregnancies down 70% in state since 2020-21

**AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

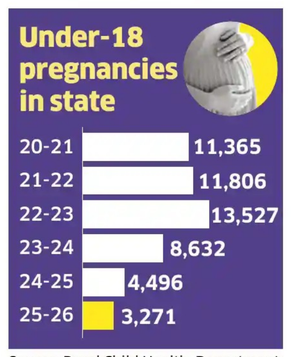
Teen pregnancies in Karnataka have steadily declined over the last six years, according to the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Teen pregnancies have fallen by over 70%—from 11,365 in 2020-2021 to 3,271 in 2025-2026. The teen pregnancy rate has also fallen steadily, from 1.12% in 2020-21 to 0.32% in 2025-26, according to official data.

Officials attributed the reduction in teen pregnancies to creating awareness, a crackdown on child marriages, and a comprehensive reproductive health education, including the Hosa Hejje (New Step) Programme for the newlyweds.

In 2025-2026, Raichur topped with 647 cases, followed by Tumakuru (345 cases) and Bengaluru Urban (244). The districts with the fewest cases were Gadag (12), Udupi (13) and Dharwad (14). Teen pregnancies had risen significantly, with 13,527 cases in 2022-2023 and 11,806 in 2021-2022.

▸ **Teen pregnancies, Page 8**




Source: Rural Child Health, Department of Health and Family Welfare

War shadow

### ATF hike may hit fliers' domestic travel plans

For Bengalureans, rising aviation fuel prices are likely to dampen domestic travel. While Indian airlines are wary of expansion plans, international traffic through the city is starting to recover, according to Hari Marar, managing director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL).

P 4

Crackdown

### Centre forms panel on demographic change

The Centre on Tuesday set up the high-level committee on Demographic Changes headed by Justice (retd) Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar to undertake a "scientific study" of such changes that arise out of illegal immigration and recommend measures to tackle it.

P 9

Tuesday torrent

### 50 trees fall, streets flooded in rain fury

Heavy rains lashed many parts of Bengaluru on Tuesday evening, uprooting over 50 trees, flooding roads and disrupting traffic across the city. The KR Circle underpass was among the worst-hit stretches, with waterlogging severely disrupting vehicular movement during peak hours.

P 2

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## College student kidnapped, assaulted for money

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Soladevanahalli police have arrested five people for allegedly kidnapping a college student to extort money from him, officials said on Tuesday.

The arrested are Dikshith Gonsalves, Deekshith, Shashank, Swaroop and Narasimha. Officials said some of the suspects were students.

According to the police, the suspects asked Steeve Aaron Raj, a resident of Silvepura, to meet them near a roadside dhaba on Hesaraghatta Road around 3.30 pm on May 22, claiming they wanted to discuss a vehicle-related issue.

Once he reached the spot, they snatched Raj's two-wheeler key and mobile phone and demanded Rs 10,000. Under duress, Raj asked one of his friends to send Rs 9,000.

Raj was then taken to an OYO room, where he was allegedly stripped while the suspects consumed alcohol. His videos were also allegedly recorded, and he was assaulted with rods and machetes. The suspects demanded Rs 1 lakh from him, the FIR said. They later headed towards Nelamangala and stopped at a dhaba for dinner before threatening the victim again and demanding Rs 30,000.

Following a complaint by the victim's mother, the suspects were traced. Investigations revealed that the victim was in an alleged relationship with Gonsalves's sister, which allegedly triggered the offence.

## CCB busts IPL betting racket

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has busted an IPL betting racket and arrested 23 suspects, officials said on Tuesday.

Investigators have registered 17 separate cases in connection with the racket. Of these, nine cases were registered by the CCB alone.

In four of the cases, police recovered seven mobile phones worth Rs 1.10 lakh from five arrested suspects. They also recovered Rs 1.06 lakh in cash and betting chips worth Rs 13.37 crore.

# Pvt flyover near Bellandur opens

### Public access may have to wait

**NAVEEN MENEZES**
BENGALURU, DHNS

In just a year, real estate firm Prestige Group has completed the construction of a 1.5-km flyover aimed at improving access to its newly built tech parks near Bellandur Lake.

The flyover, expected to ease travel between Outer Ring Road and Old Airport Road, is likely to be opened to the public shortly.

Notably, this is the city's second privately funded flyover. The company unveiled the elevated road on Monday.

In April last year, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) approved the firm's proposal to construct the flyover largely on public land and along the buffer zone of a stormwater drain. As part of the agreement, the company offered to widen Kariyammana Agrahara Road and bear the entire cost of the flyover.

However, on Tuesday, the general public was not allowed to access the flyover, possibly due to minor pending works. Commuters were greeted by closed gates at the ORR entry point, with similar restrictions in place on the Bellandur Lake Road side too. However, there were no restrictions on employees working at Prestige Group's tech parks from using the flyover.

Officials of the Bengaluru East City Corporation, however, maintained that the flyover would eventually be opened to the public once the remaining works are completed.

The flyover is expected to ease travel between Outer Ring Road and Old Airport Road. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

"I inspected the project along with the GBA Chief Commissioner a few months ago. As per the agreement, the flyover will also be open to the public," Corporation Commissioner D S Ramesh said.

When permission for the project was granted, *DH* had reported on the agreement in July last year. In its proposal, the company argued that the existing roads were too narrow to handle growing traffic volumes and noted that the upcoming Prestige Beta Tech Park was expected to accommodate more than 5,000 employees.

Notably, the group had first approached the BBMP for permission to construct the flyover in August 2022 and again in November 2023, but the requests were not considered at the time.

Apart from benefiting tech park employees, the flyover is expected to offer an alternative route for commuters travelling towards Yemalur Junction from ORR, particularly as stretches around Kadubeesanahalli and Marathahalli witness severe congestion during peak hours.

Clement Jayakumar, a member of the Mahadevapura Taskforce civic group, backed public access to the flyover. "If opened to all, it will benefit vehicles heading towards Yemalur and Old Airport Road. Bellandur Lake Road is also being widened now," he said.

However, he pointed out that congestion within Yemalur would remain a challenge due to narrow internal roads.

A spokesperson for Prestige Group declined to comment.

# Okalipuram railway underpass work resumes

The incomplete section of the Okalipuram railway underpass near KSR Bengaluru station. GBA

### GBA chief sets 25-day deadline

BENGALURU, DHNS

The much-delayed railway underpass work at Okalipuram has finally resumed, with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Bengaluru Central City Corporation directing contractors to complete the work in 25 days.

A portion of the underpass near the third entrance of the KSR Bengaluru railway station had been stuck for several years, especially after the restructuring of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) a year ago.

On Tuesday, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao directed officials to complete the pending works beneath the Chennai railway line on the Okalipuram eight-lane corridor within 25 days.

"The Railways has already completed two box-pushing structures beneath the Chennai railway track.

The construction of the connecting road for vehicular traffic through one of the box sections on the route from Majestic to Rajajinagar should be ready in 25 days," he said.

Rao further directed officials to immediately commence and complete the construction of the connecting road to the box passage leading towards the railway station, a 1,200-mm diameter stormwater drain for rainwater discharge, a 63-metre retaining wall and pedestrian footpaths.

A new pedestrian foot overbridge is also planned at the location.

## Couple steals Rs 49.5L, gold from visually challenged friend

BENGALURU, DHNS

Suspects Sharmila Sheshadri and Ganesh Kumar

Bengaluru police have arrested a married couple for stealing gold jewellery and cash from a visually challenged female friend who had been staying with them, officials said on Tuesday.

The woman had been residing with her friend Sharmila Sheshadri, 50, and her husband Ganesh Kumar, 52, at BEML Layout 5th Stage for the past eight years. The couple runs a business.

In June 2024, the complainant retrieved gold jewellery from her bank locker to shift it to another bank locker. She added Rs 49.5 lakh in cash and kept the valuables in a wardrobe cupboard in a room at the house. The key remained with her.

However, when she later decided to move the valuables to another bank locker, she found the key missing. The couple did not seem enthused when she suggested calling a locksmith to open the cupboard.

When the complainant later called a locksmith herself, she was shocked to find the valuables missing.

On being questioned, the couple allegedly told her they needed money and had used the cash, besides pledging the gold jewellery at a jewellery shop. They refused to return either.

The victim approached the police on May 6, following which a case was registered. On May 7, police took the couple into custody. During questioning, they allegedly told police that they had used the cash for business needs and handed over the jewellery to a friend who lives in Halasuru.

Police recovered 232 grams of gold jewellery valued at Rs 35 lakh.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said he had directed investigators to recover the cash as soon as possible and hand it over to the victim.

The couple has been remanded in judicial custody.

## Rain floods underpasses, uproots trees across city

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rain lashed many parts of Bengaluru on Tuesday evening, uprooting over 50 trees, flooding roads and disrupting traffic across the city.

The KR Circle underpass was among the worst-hit stretches, with waterlogging severely disrupting vehicular movement during peak hours. Civic officials placed barricades at the underpass entrance for public safety and smooth traffic management.

Several key roads and junctions were inundated following the downpour, leading to traffic congestion and slow-moving vehicles in multiple areas. Waterlogging was reported at Hebbal up-ramp, Hoodi underpass, Chickpet Circle, Kundalahalli, Yeswantpur, Jayamahal Road, Kogilu Cross, Binny Mill underpass and near TV Tower, among other localities.

The rain was accompanied by strong gusts travelling at speeds of 30 to 40 kmph, resulting in more than 50 trees being uprooted on Old Madras Road, and in HBR Layout, Sanjaynagar, Geddalahalli, Ashwathnagar and other locations. Most tree falls were reported in East and West Corporation limits, according to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). By 8.30 pm, the Bengaluru City observatory recorded 17.8 mm of rainfall and HAL Airport 4.8 mm.

A waterlogged railway underpass at RMV 2nd Stage and a fallen tree branch blocking a main road in Sanjaynagar on Tuesday. DH PHOTOS/B K JANARDHAN

The maximum temperature at Bengaluru City was 33.2°C, 1.2°C above normal, while the minimum was 22.6°C, 1.3°C above normal. HAL Airport reported a maximum temperature of 33.7°C, 1.7°C above normal, and a minimum of 21.0°C, roughly on a par with the normal.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy towards afternoon or evening. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with gusty winds of 30 to 40 kmph are likely in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 34°C and 22°C, respectively, it added.

### Metro disruption

Purple Line Metro train services were suspended between Garudacharpalya and Whitefield between 6 pm and 6.35 pm following a tree fall on the tracks between ITPL and Sathya Sai Hospital stations.

As a result, Purple Line trains ran only between Garudacharpalya and Challaghatta stations during that period. Although Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) later restored services, passengers reported long wait times at many stations.

## Civic volunteers clear garbage from Basavanagudi stretch

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Residents, volunteers and civic officials came together to clear years of accumulated garbage from Mallikarjuna Temple Street in NR Colony, Basavanagudi, during a cleanliness drive held on May 17.

Members of the Basavanagudi Ward No 154 Residents' Association, APS College, BMS College, and local volunteers spent over four hours segregating heaps of mixed waste into garbage bags for collection by sanitation workers.

The drive was undertaken after residents raised concerns over large mounds of garbage, foul smell and public urination along the stretch, which houses APS College, BMS Hospital and Subramanya Temple.

Solid waste management staff and engineers from NR Colony assisted in clearing the area by deploying tractors and removing auto tippers. BBMP marshal Iranna also helped coordinate the removal of vehicles from the spot.

APS Secretary Prakash and two staff members joined the initiative, along with volunteers Satyalaxmi Rao, Srinidhi G, Akhil Vashishtha, Dattatreya, Amrutha, Dhanush, Harish from NSS, pourakarmikas, and assistant engineer Chethan.

Residents said similar cleanliness drives will be organised across Basavanagudi ward to promote civic awareness and community participation, according to a news release.

Civic volunteers clear piled-up waste from Mallikarjun Temple Street during a community drive.

File No. Admin-18011(11)/14/2026-eoffice

**Government of India**
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
**Directorate General of Health Service**
**Central Drugs Standard Control Organization**
**(Drugs Section)**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up the post as mentioned below at Central Drugs Testing Laboratory. Chennai on Deputation basis. The last date for receiving the applications will be within 60 days fro the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

2. For further details please visit Ministry's website https://mohfw.gov.in or CDSCO website https://cdsco.gov.in.

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**EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES FOR SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

Applications are invited from INS Accredited Advertising Agencies **for empanelment in South Eastern Railway for Public Relations advertising related activities and allied works.** The application form can be downloaded from the website **www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in (Department → Public Relations → EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES OF SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY) from 27th May, 2026 to 17th June, 2026.** All other relevant details and eligibility criteria are also available in the aforesaid website.

The cost of the application form is Rs. 5,900/- (non-refundable) (Rs. 5,000/- + 18% GST Rs. 900/-) to be paid by Demand Draft, drawn in favour of "FA & CAO, South Eastern Railway" payable at Kolkata. Or it may also be paid in cash, which is to be deposited to the Chief Cashier, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach and the money receipt for the same be obtained.

Demand Draft/Money receipt for the cost of the application form is to be submitted separately at the time of submission of the application. The duly filled in application form including all relevant self-attested documents are to be dropped/submitted in a Sealed Envelope in a box kept at the Office of the **Chief Public Relations Officer, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043, available on all working days from 10:30 hrs. to 18:00 hrs. from 27th May, 2026 to 15:00 hrs. of 17th June, 2026. The date and time of opening of application forms are 16:00 hrs. of 17th June, 2026.**

No application will be entertained after the date and time specified above. **Chief Public Relations Officer**

South Eastern Railway
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(PR-236)

## LEGAL LENS

IFIM Law School, Bengaluru, in association with the Industrial Internship and Placement (IIP) Committee, conducted a three-day certificate course on International Commercial Arbitration. Advocate Hiranmayi Rajeev, who is associated with King Stubb & Kasiva, conducted a session covering modules on international commercial arbitration and provided participants with practical insights into arbitration proceedings. The course offered exposure to and an understanding of real-world arbitration practices.

## India Post releases special cover to mark 18 years of KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS

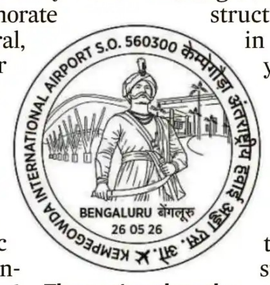
India Post on Tuesday released a Permanent Pictorial Cancellation (PPC), along with a Special Cover and Picture Postcards, to mark 18 years of operations of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The commemorative postal items were unveiled in collaboration with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator, and are intended to recognise the airport's role in connecting Bengaluru with destinations across India and abroad.

The PPC features an image of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, the city's founder, alongside the airport, symbolising the link between Bengaluru's heritage and its modern identity. The Special Cover and Picture Postcards have also been designed around the same theme.

The PPC will be available to the public at the airport post office. A PPC is a long-term postmark issued by India Post to commemorate places of cultural, historical or tourist significance.

The Special Cover and Picture Postcards will be available at the Philatelic Bureau at Bengaluru GPO and other philatelic bureaus across Karnataka.




The post seal marks the Permanent Pictorial Cancellation.

### Airport expansion plans

The Bengaluru airport is in the crucial stage of transitioning from a middling sized airport to a global aviation hub, said Hari Marar, MD and CEO of BIAL. The airport began operations in 2008 as India's first greenfield airport developed through a public-private partnership.

"As far as the future of the airport is concerned, we're making core aviation infrastructure investment, in the next four years, we're investing close to Rs 18,000 crore in building the phase 2 of terminal 2, along with all the airside infrastructure that is required to support this world," he told *DH*. Work on the phase 2 of the T2 is expected to begin in the next 3-4 months, and the project is expected to be completed by 2029.

"Our plan is to convert this airport into a destination... we're building business parks, supported by social infrastructure such as concert arena, retail, dining, entertainment and a multitude of hotels," he added.

## C V Raman Hospital expands capacity amid public demand

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The capacity of the government-run C V Raman Hospital in Indiranagar has been increased by five special wards and seven semi-special wards owing to public demand.

The government has also introduced adult vaccination for people above the age of 65 to prevent infectious disease and finerenone tablets in hospitals. Finereone tablets are used to protect the kidneys and heart in adults with chronic kidney disease (CKD) associated with type 2 diabetes.

Speaking at the inauguration on Tuesday, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "With the monsoon beginning, taking the adult vaccine can help prevent several illnesses. It can reduce hospitalisations and will be particularly beneficial for those with respiratory problems."

## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Karnataka State Agriculture Department SC/ST Employees' Welfare Association and Agriculture Graduates Officers' Association:** Dr BR Ambedkar Birth Anniversary celebrations; inauguration by N Cheluvarayaswamy; guests: Captain K Rajendra, YS Patil, Upendra Pratap Singh, CS Shadakshari, GT Putra, Mohammed Parvez Banthanala, Venkataram Reddy J Patil, S Shambhugowda, N Ramesh; presided over by M Tirumalesh; Sangama Hall, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, 10 am.

**Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB):** 'National AI and Digital Water' Summit; Inauguration by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar; chaired by Byrathi Suresh; Shalini Rajneesh, Gaurav Gupta, Tushar Giri Nath, D Tara, Maheshwar Rao and Dr V Ram Prasath Manohar to be present; Four Seasons Hotel, Mehkri Circle, 11 am.

## 6, including rtd VC, held for misappropriation of funds

**BIDAR, DHNS:** The Lokayukta police on Tuesday took six individuals, including the retired Vice-Chancellor of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, into custody for allegedly misappropriating funds to the tune of Rs 45 crore by furnishing fake bills.

Retired vice chancellor H D Narayanaswami, K L Suresh, who retired as the university's finance officer (in-charge), assistant finance officer Mrityunjaya Hiremath were produced before the Bidar District Court on Tuesday, along with Bopanna, the owner of a Bengaluru-based private agency, Manjunath and Ramagonda.

The court remanded all the six individuals in judicial custody till June 2.

### Case from 2017-18

The irregularities in question date back to 2017-18. Venkat Reddy and K C Shankaregowda, both of whom were members of the varsity's administrative board then, filed a complaint with the Lokayukta police in Bidar alleging misappropriation of funds from the university.

The District Court issued a warrant for the arrest of the six individuals, following which Lokayukta police arrested Hiremath in Bidar. The other five individuals involved in the case were arrested in Bengaluru.

# Police warn against moral policing during Bakrid

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru Police have warned of strict action against those indulging in moral policing and other illegal activities ahead of Bakrid (Eid-al-Adha) celebrations.

A peace committee meeting was conducted at the Sampigehalli police station under the Northeast Division ahead of the festival, police said on Tuesday.

The meeting was aimed at ensuring effective law and order arrangements, strengthening public safety measures and promoting peaceful and harmonious celebrations.

**People have been advised not to post provocative statements, false information or content on social media that could disturb peace and harmony.**

"The meeting was attended by police officers, religious leaders, mosque committee members, community representatives and residents. During the interaction, police officials advised everyone to celebrate the festival responsibly while maintaining peace and harmony," a police statement said.

CCTV cameras will be installed at all Eidgah grounds as part of the security arrangements for the festival, police said.

Police told the public to immediately report suspicious and unlawful activities and call 112 in case of an emergency.

"Strict action will be taken against wheeling, displaying weapons, causing nuisance or engaging in activities that create inconvenience to the public, and special surveillance will be maintained. Individuals involved in wheeling cases will be summoned, counselled, warned and placed under special monitoring," police said.

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 33.2°C |
| Minimum | 22.6°C |
| Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) | -- |
| Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) | 66% |
| Sunset (May 27) | 6:41 pm |
| Sunrise (May 28) | 5:53 am |
| Moonrise | 2:41 pm |
| Moonset | 2:10 pm |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

# Eateries hold off on price hikes amid wage revision concerns

### Standalone eateries may feel the sharpest pinch

**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU DHNS

Hotels and restaurants across Bengaluru are holding off on menu price hikes despite the state government's notification on revised minimum wages, which proposes an average increase of around 60% across sectors, in the hope that the wage revision will be moderated.

Industry stakeholders said they are waiting to see whether the government revises the proposal following representations from employer associations and trade bodies. The revised wages are expected to significantly increase labour costs for the hospitality sector, where manpower constitutes a major share of operating expenses.

"We are waiting for government officials to return to Bengaluru. We want to seek an audience with some members of the government to urge them to reconsider the hike. We are bringing together multiple associations and union bodies for this. If we receive a negative response, it will have a cascading effect and prices of commodities across sectors will have to be increased," said P C Rao, president of Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association.

An immediate increase could place additional pressure on businesses already grappling with rising oil and other costs, said Nikhil Gupta, co-founder of Pizza Bakery, Smash Guys and Paris Panini, while acknowledging the need for better wages for workers.

"No restaurant wants to be the first one to make the move and raise prices. That will have a negative impact on the business," he added.

The suddenness of the hike will impact mid-segment restaurants, said Ananth Narayan, NRAI Bengaluru Chapter head.

"The revision lands as a sharp 25% to 35% jump on baseline payrolls almost overnight, which is significant for any industry running on 8% to 10% net margins. Standalone restaurants, mid-segment dining, QSRs and budget hotels will feel it the hardest; large-format hotels and organised chains have the balance sheet to absorb it more gracefully," he said.

He added that the future is not fewer hands but smarter ones, with more eateries now moving towards automation and energy-efficient electric kitchens.

# Teen killed, worker injured in compound wall collapse

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 17-year-old boy died and another worker was injured after a compound wall collapsed during construction work at an apartment complex in Chikka Banaswadi on Monday, officials said.

Debris at the wall collapse site in Chikka Banaswadi.

The deceased was Beemesh L, 17, son of Lakshmayya. The injured worker, Doolaiah, 32, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 2.30 pm at Prudent Homes Apartment when Doolaiah, along with Beemesh and Jayamma, was digging soil beneath the compound wall to create a rainwater passage. A portion of the structure suddenly gave way and collapsed on them.

Beemesh

Beemesh, who had accompanied the labourers to the site, got trapped under the debris. He was rescued and rushed to hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead. Doolaiah sustained injuries in the incident. Jayamma, who was assisting in the work, raised an alarm after the collapse, following which residents alerted the fire and emergency services and the local police.

Preliminary investigations revealed that nearly four feet of the compound wall, built a couple of years ago, had collapsed while excavation work was being carried out beneath it, leading to the accident. Police said adequate safety measures were not in place at the construction site.

Banaswadi police have registered a case of negligence against apartment owner Prakash Babu and are further investigating the incident.

### 'Brothers were breadwinners'

The victim's family hails from Raichur and had been living in a shed for the past 10 years.

Eresh, the deceased's brother, told *DH* that Beemesh had recently completed Class 9 and was preparing to enrol in Class 10. He had been taking up construction work for the past few days, earning a daily wage of Rs 900. Their father, Lakshmayya, is visually challenged, and both brothers were the family's breadwinners.

# Hydro ganja, MDMA worth Rs 2.40 cr seized

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In two separate cases, officials from the JB Nagar police and the Central Crime Branch (CCB) cracked down on drug smuggling and peddling attempts and recovered hydro ganja, MDMA and ganja worth Rs 2.40 crore.

In the first case, police acted on information on May 22 that banned narcotics were being sold from a car with Kerala registration. A case was registered, and a raid led to the arrest of two suspects. Police also recovered 27 grams of MDMA, 1.272 kg of ganja and a car used in the crime. The recovery was valued at Rs 4 lakh.

Separately, on May 21, CCB officials acted on information that three boxes containing narcotics had arrived at the Foreign Post Office under the jurisdiction of the KG Nagar police station.

A raid was conducted and three boxes containing 3.312 kg of hydro ganja, which had arrived from abroad, were seized.

The recovered narcotics were valued at Rs 1.16 crore. A case has been registered at the Kempegowda Nagar police station to track down the three individuals who ordered the drugs.

The total value of the seized narcotics was Rs 1.20 crore, with the market value nearly double that.

# Life convict traced over alleged 'forged' prison release order

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Life convict Shankar Armugam, who allegedly walked out of Parappana Agrahara Central Prison using forged court documents eight years ago, has been tracked down and has agreed to cooperate in the ongoing investigation, senior police officers said.

According to the police, Shankar, 51, a realtor-cum-plumber, recently contacted investigators by phone after a case was filed against him over the authenticity of the documents used for his prison release.

A senior police officer told *DH* that Shankar had assured the police that he was innocent and would appear before the investigating officers to clarify allegations that he secured his release by producing forged orders purportedly issued by the Supreme Court.

"He has spoken to the police over the phone and said he would appear before them on Wednesday and explain his side," the officer said.

During the conversation, Shankar reportedly claimed that a similar complaint questioning the genuineness of his release order had surfaced earlier and that an inquiry had already been conducted into the matter.

Shankar maintained that he had not committed any wrongdoing and alleged that attempts were repeatedly being made to drag him into controversy despite the earlier inquiry.

The case drew attention after prison officials filed an FIR a week ago, stating that forged judicial documents were used to facilitate the release of convicts from prison. Shankar was serving life imprisonment after being convicted in a 2001 kidnapping-for-ransom case.

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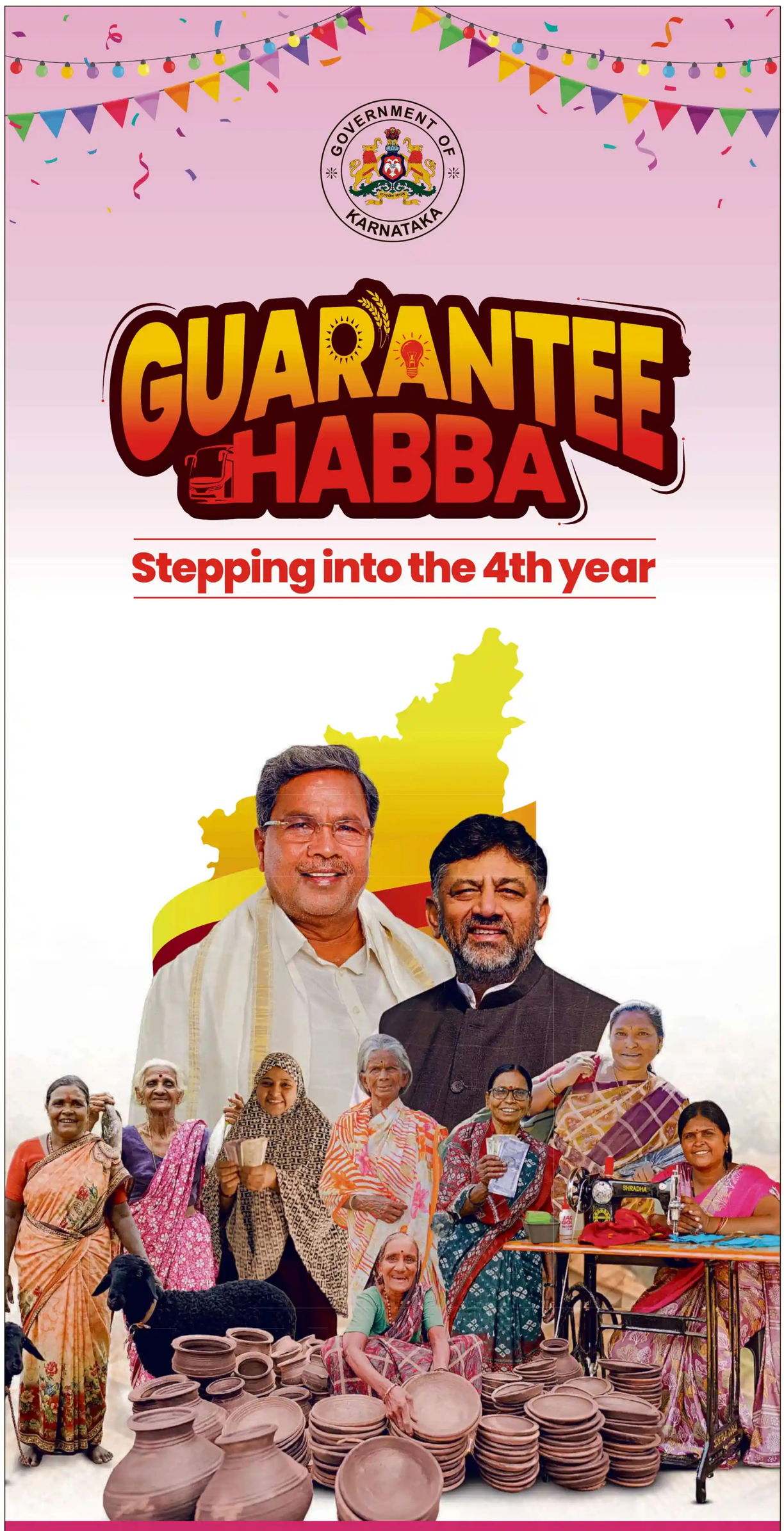
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Hon'ble Minister Smt. Lakshmi Hebbalkar welcoming Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah during the inauguration ceremony of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme

# Viral Bengaluru shop revives chatpata snack memories

The tiny shop in Mathikere that's garnering attention.

**The family-run, tiny provision store is drawing crowds searching for treats from the 80s and 90s**

**SHRADDHA A K**
TEAM METROLIFE

While nostalgia has been making headlines after the much-loved Melody chocolate disappeared from shelves across the city, one tiny provision store in Mathikere has been selling memories faster than chips.

For over three decades, 53-year-old Roopa (who prefers not to share her last name) has been running the small neighbourhood shop, S A S General Stores, that went viral on Instagram over the weekend for stocking snacks many believed had vanished years ago. Tucked into an old Bengaluru locality, the store draws customers who grew up eating treats like Thanda Fanda, Khattam-Khatta, Appalam Chaplam and tube lollipops (popsicles) — snacks that have become increasingly difficult to find elsewhere.

"People who lived here 20 or 30 years ago come back looking for these snacks," Roopa said. "Some even bring their children just to show them what they used to eat."

The shop was started over 40 years ago by her relatives and has survived changing food habits and the rise of supermarkets. Roopa remembers helping out at the store while she was in Class 8. After her father died, another shopkeeper managed it briefly before she eventually took over full-time.

A few of the treats available at the store.

What began as a traditional 'chilre angadi' (tiny corner store) has gradually evolved into a provision shop. But Roopa says the spirit of the old setup remains intact. "Even today, we try to maintain the feel of a 'chilre angadi'. Popular snacks for children are displayed in the front, while the regular provisions are stocked at the back," says Roopa.

The viral video changed everything. Customers now travel from different parts of Bengaluru, many spending over Rs 100 on childhood favourites and stopping to take photos beside the tiny counter stacked with colourful packets. "We still get fresh stock twice a week," she said, adding that she continues to source the older varieties because that is what customers keep asking for.

Despite the sudden online attention, little has changed at the store itself.

# Lifestyle demands fuel dowry cases in city

**Activists say pressures are becoming subtler, with 'gifts' extending beyond cash and jewellery**

**TINI SARA ANIEN**
TEAM METROLIFE

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

City women's groups say they are seeing a rise in dowry-related complaints, particularly among couples married for one to five years, with demands increasingly centred on expensive gadgets, vehicles and other lifestyle upgrades.

Recent alleged dowry-related deaths in Greater Noida, Bengaluru and Bhopal have once again drawn attention to dowry-linked abuse across the country. Against this backdrop, the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) Crime in India 2024 report placed Bengaluru under scrutiny, with the city recording 878 complaints under the Dowry Prohibition Act in 2024, accounting for nearly 87% of such cases registered across metropolitan cities.

Activists and women's groups working with survivors say the numbers may also reflect higher awareness and better access to support systems in Bengaluru than in many other cities.

Pragya Prasun Singh, founder of Atijeevan Foundation, which works with women facing domestic abuse and marital violence, says greater employment opportunities and financial independence in metro cities are giving women more confidence to leave abusive marriages and seek help. She estimates cases handled by her organisation rose by 20-30% over the last five years, with a noticeable increase during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"While the number seems shocking, it is at the same time understandable," says Pragya, attributing it to Bengaluru's relatively strong ecosystem of NGOs, legal aid services, helplines and citizen support networks.

### Early marriage years

Activists say many dowry-linked complaints emerge within the first few years of marriage, especially among women in their 20s and early 30s. "Most cases emerge within the first three to five years," says Pragya, adding that women are often initially told to "adjust" because they are "still settling in".

According to Tabassum Ara, coordinator with Vimochana, nearly 70-80% of the organisation's dowry-related complaints involve marriages within the first five years. "Families often try to patch things up by giving whatever is demanded once. But once demands are fulfilled, the cycle repeats," she says.

Priya Varadharajan, founder of Durga India, says younger women today are more aware that they can seek help and survive independently if needed. Nearly 50-60% of complaints reaching her organisation involve women aged 25 to 30, many of whom now choose to leave abusive marriages sooner than women did earlier.

### 'More sophisticated'

Activists say dowry in urban India has evolved into subtler, more socially acceptable forms, with families pressured into financing lavish weddings, luxury vehicles, flats or expensive honeymoon packages. "Many families take loans, sell land or drain savings to meet such expectations," says Pragya. She adds that middle-class families are often pressured over housing or debt, while wealthier households face demands tied to luxury and status.

In one case handled by Durga India, a young woman who fought to continue working after marriage was later pressured to hand over her entire salary to her husband. "She realised she had no agency over the money she earned herself," says Priya.

### Unemployment a factor

Tabassum says changing economic realities are also shaping demands. "Earlier, people would openly ask for dowry. Today, there are demands for the latest laptop or iPhone, or 'I lost my job, ask your father to help me start a business'," she says.

She adds that social comparison and rising lifestyle expectations often drive financial pressure within marriages. In one recent case, a family allegedly demanded the woman's "property share", including a helicopter.

While physical violence continues in some cases, activists say emotional abuse linked to dowry has become increasingly common. "The man may not hit her, but he will stop talking to her, stop sleeping in the same room, or stop allowing her to visit her parents," says Tabassum.

In one case she handled, a marriage remained unconsummated for four years while the woman endured emotional neglect and pressure linked to dowry demands. "She knew her parents could not afford more demands, so she kept quiet," she adds.

### SURVIVORS SPEAK

Sairah K (name changed), a tech professional currently in the process of divorce after an 11-year abusive marriage, says financial control and secrecy were among the earliest warning signs she overlooked. "His money was his money, but my money, my parents' money, and even gifts given to me were treated as his," she says.

Despite working with major MNCs, she says she hesitated to speak up, fearing judgement and social stigma, and describes navigating the legal system as "chaotic" and emotionally draining. "The moment you realise something is wrong, speak up and seek help," she says.

Karthika Raj (name changed), an English teacher who married her college sweetheart, says she initially dismissed her husband's repeated demands for new gadgets as "a passing phase". "When he demanded that I ask my parents to transfer money every month for 'extra expenses', I decided to end the marriage," she says. Karthika is now separated from her husband of three years and has filed for divorce.

Both women say early warning signs can include emotional withdrawal, women becoming unusually quiet, husbands refusing to accompany them even to their parents' homes, and in-laws distancing themselves from the woman's family.

DOG DEBATE

Dogs that were adopted at the Cubbon Park adoption drive.

# Shelters see uneven adoption trends

**The indie adoption network navigates fear, misinformation and changing pet trends**

**SHRADDHA A K**
TEAM METROLIFE

A recent indie pet adoption drive in Jayanagar helped 11 puppies and a cat find their homes, drawing attention once again to Bengaluru's growing network of rescuers and volunteers promoting indie pet adoption amid rising anxiety around community dogs.

Organised by the Jayanagar Canine Squad along with Sri Shiva Shakthi Abirudhi Trust and GBA South, the drive took place against the backdrop of heightened conversations around stray dogs in the city. The initiative also coincided with recent Supreme Court observations on the euthanasia of aggressive dogs, which have intensified debate across the city.

Animal welfare groups, however, say the impact on adoptions has been uneven. Dr Adithi Balaganesan, outreach director at CJ Memorial Trust, says the organisation's work has followed a scientific, structured and responsible approach for the past decade. "We conduct regular adoption drives at Cubbon Dog Park, which witnessed a temporary dip in enquiries after the recent discussions around stray dogs," she says.

"Earlier, a typical weekend drive would see around 15-20 serious enquiries and 5-8 successful adoptions. Currently, we are seeing slightly lower numbers, averaging 10-12 enquiries and 3-5 adoptions." Dr Adithi adds that the decline is more visible among first-time pet parents making emotional or impulsive decisions. "The issue is not the indie dog itself, but the fear factor that has been created around community animals," she says.

At Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre (CARE), however, adoption numbers have remained relatively stable. Sudha Narayanan, founder trustee of CARE, says the organisation continues to see steady interest from adopters despite concerns surrounding the ruling. "We expected negativity towards indie pups after the order was passed, but fortunately that hasn't happened," she says. CARE currently records around 15-20 adoptions a month, down from nearly 40-50 during the post-pandemic peak. However, Sudha clarifies that the decline predates the recent Supreme Court discussions.

Second Chance Sanctuary has recorded 61 adoptions since September last year, of which only five involved indie or indie-cross puppies, according to trustee Sandhya Madhavan. The organisation averages around six adoptions a month, a figure Sandhya says has remained largely unchanged despite the recent discussions.

Sandhya, however, says the broader impact of the ruling has been an increase in hostility towards community dogs. "People are taking the law into their hands and interpreting the order as permission to remove or kill dogs," she says, adding that shelters and volunteers are increasingly dealing with reports of harassment and cruelty.

Rescue organisations also point to a growing preference for cats among urban adopters. Aniruddha Ravindra, Managing Director of Praana Animal Foundation, and Animal Welfare Warden of the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board, says the shelter currently sees four to five cat adoptions every week, with very low return rates. Dog adoption retention, he adds, remains more challenging.

"Cruelty towards dogs has also increased," he says. "We recently handled cases in Peenya and Kengeri where dogs were allegedly killed after being labelled aggressive. That has been the most worrying fallout of the discussions around the ruling."

Meanwhile, some rescuers believe shifting pet preferences and the popularity of designer breeds on social media are also contributing to lower interest in adoption.

"There has been a drastic decrease in adoptions," says Arshleen Kaur of Big Bagheera Foundation, which works with injured and abandoned animals. "People are increasingly looking for trendy breeds, while indie dogs and even common breeds like Labradors are getting overlooked."

*To adopt, contact CARE at 81230 38270; Big Bagheera at @bigbhagheera_foundation and Second Chance Sanctuary at @secondchancesanctuaryindia (both on Instagram)*

FIND YOUR VIBE

## Sketch, scribble or paint with strangers

**VIBHA S BHAT**
TEAM METROLIFE

What began as a birthday picnic centred around art in Cubbon Park for the couple Rattan Kaur and Adithya Suresh in 2023, has grown into a monthly meetup that brings strangers together to paint, sketch, scribble or simply observe others getting creative.

Purple Picnic Club invites people of all ages and skill levels to bring their own art supplies and "make something creative". Each session follows a different theme, ranging from figure drawing and Indian folk art to journaling, oil pastels and food illustrations.

"This is not a workshop. We let people draw whatever they want to make," says Rattan, describing it as a space for exploration and leisure. Participants spend two hours under a designated tree, sharing snacks, buying chai from park vendors, and creating side by side. Suresh is a cybersecurity engineer, while Rattan is an engineer-turned-artist. While the club has rekindled the childhood joy of scribbling without judgement for some participants, for Rattan it has become an arts retreat where she gets to "create, not teach".

Today, the community has nearly 500 members on WhatsApp. For Suresh and Rattan, the most heartening part has been watching strangers become friends. Regular attendees now connect over house parties and have built what Rattan calls a "little family" in a city that can sometimes feel isolating.

*Details on @purplepicnicclub on Instagram.*

An average of 10 to 20 members attend the club's monthly meetups.

EVENTS

**Play**
Arena Theatre Productions will stage 'A Thousand Splendid Suns', based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini, on May 30, at 3 pm and 7 pm, at Good Shepherd Auditorium, Museum Road. Tickets online.

**Harmonica recitals**
Hamsananda Foundation will host 'Harmonica Vaibava', an evening featuring multiple recitals, along with the presentation of the Ragamalika Award 2026, on May 31, 4 pm, at Bangalore Gayana Samaja, K R Road. Entry free.

**Treasure hunt**
Cycool and SpokesWomen are hosting an event featuring cycling, running, and walking treasure hunts on May 31, 6.15 am (reporting time), at Garuda Mall, Magrath Road. For tickets, visit cycoolsports.com

**Theatre**
Kathalyst will present an immersive theatre production titled 'Love, eventually', directed by Divya Rachel Mathai, on May 30 and 31, 3 pm and 6.30 pm, at Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Sudhama Nagar. Tickets online.

### K'taka folk epic on stage

Azim Premji Foundation will stage 'Manteswamy Kavya Live', a performance of one of Karnataka's most significant oral traditions, led by Dr Mysuru G Gururaj and troupe, this Friday. The 500-year-old tradition revolves around saint Manteswamy and is known for its message of social justice. The event also marks the release of the latest episode of the Kannada podcast 'Noorakke Nooru Karnataka'. On May 29, 6.30 pm, at Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala. Entry free.

# Cityscapes through the lens

**As photography turns 200, these hobby clubs reflect on nurturing their passion for storytelling**

**VIBHA S BHAT**
TEAM METROLIFE

The period 2026-27 marks two centuries of photography. The first permanent photograph, captured by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, showed the sunlit rooftops and outbuildings of his family estate in Saint-Loup-de-Varennes, France.

In this landmark year, *Metrolife* speaks to photography groups in Bengaluru about how they view the city through their lens.

The city has a thriving photography culture, with clubs routinely organising photowalks through historic markets and neighbourhoods, studio meetups focused on improving technique, talks on photo printing, treasure hunt-style shoots, review sessions for beginners, and national and international salons.

### Contrasting scenes

Manish S started IgersOfBangalore (IOB) 11 years ago as a solo pursuit to showcase his city. Because he is a "proud Bengaluru huduga". His work attracted other budding photographers, and IOB grew into a community.

According to him, there is always something happening in Bengaluru. "As a photographer, you have the opportunity to document different cultures, food scenes, and events," he says.

Zeeshan Mallick runs the much-younger group Bangalore PhotoWalks. He says the city's green cover, walkable streets and pleasant weather allow photographers to shoot outdoors for longer hours compared to hotter cities such as Chennai. "Photography is how I embraced the city," says Mallick, who moved here from north India.

The Newbies Photo Club, which has been running under the aegis of Bangalore Newbies since 2024, finds inspiration in the city's contrasts. "Glass buildings and greenery, or street vendors beside tech parks — Bengaluru automatically frames itself to the photographer's eye," says one of its earliest members and current head, Sayak Sajith.

Bang BW (Bangalore Black and White), founded by Sabir Ahmed in 2004, is dedicated to analogue photography. The group documents the city in intimate ways, from the architecture of its buildings to craftspeople at work and how the city looks at different times of the day.

### Changing perception

However, members across these groups say street and candid photography are no longer as easy as they once were. Mallick says people today are more wary of being photographed in public. Ahmed understands the hesitation. "Earlier, the public would ask curiously, 'Where are you from?'. Now they often resist because there are one too many photographers out there," he explains. Sajith insists that photographers must act responsibly because the camera holds power and "images shape people's understanding". He says photographers should approach sensitive subjects with empathy, remain aware of their own biases, and seek consent whenever possible.

### Emotional quotient

The Youth Photographic Society, a non-profit club founded in Bengaluru in 1971, sees the bicentennial anniversary as a reminder of how far the medium has evolved. Its president, Vikas Sastry, says, "From glass plate negatives and film to digital and mobile photography, photography has become accessible to everyone." And this matters because "photography changed memory forever," says Sajith. "It preserves stories of families and cultures long after we are gone. The medium constantly changes, but we must still preserve the emotion," he adds.

Members of the IgersOfBangalore community photographing Nobel laureate Sir C V Raman's historic Panchavati residence in Malleswaram.

**MAY 28-31: SHOW OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS**

Confluence 2026, an exhibition of handcrafted photographic prints, will be held from May 28 to 31, 11 am to 7 pm, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road. Featured artistes include Debanjan Das Gupta, Rajkumar Krishna, Raghavendra Udupa, Ramesh Adkoli, Sabir Ahmed, and Shankar Kiragi. The exhibition will have on display 70 works created using more than 10 alternative processes, from 19th-century cyanotype and salt printing to FerroBlend, a process developed by Udupa.

# Tariff revision for industries: Tribunal admits FKCCI plea

## Burden huge since it's retrospective, says industry

BENGALURU, DHNS

The appellate tribunal for electricity has admitted the application filed by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), opposing the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission's (KERC) decision to revise the tariff order of March 2025.

In March 2026, the KERC, based on the review petitions filed by electricity supply companies (Escoms), had increased the power tariff for industrial and commercial establishments between 10 paise and 95 paise per unit, while bringing down the tariff for agriculture pumpsets by an average of 87 paise.

As a result of the revision in charges, industries and commercial establishments had to pay higher prices retrospectively for power consumption between April 2025 and February 2026.

The review petition by Escoms had stated that there was a need to increase the tariff of industries and commercial establishments and reduce the tariff for agriculture pumpsets since the subsidy released by the government for agriculture pumpsets was less and this had resulted in revenue deficit.

### 'Order against norms'

Following the decision, FKCCI moved the appellate tribunal, citing that KERC revising its own order was against the norms.

"According to law, the tariff order can only be revised based on the review petition, if the errors are apparent or if there is new evidence that requires the order to be changed. However, both of these are not true in this case," said M G Prabhakar, advisor to the energy committee, FKCCI.

Industrialists said the burden was huge since it was retrospective and the financial implications were hard to bear.

# Four govt PU college students take part in Japan science event

BENGALURU, DHNS

Four students from government pre-university colleges in the state are among the 56 students from 15 states across the country taking part in the 'Sakura Science Programme 2026' being held in Japan between May 24 and 30.

The Department of School Education and Literacy shortlisted 100 students in the first step and later reduced the number based on the highest marks scored.

The students selected are Ashwitha K H of the Government PU College-Sringeri (Chikkamagaluru district), Namratha Bai from Adarsha Government PU College, KR Nagar (Mysuru), Rohith D S from the Government PU College, Arsikere (Hassan) and Akash Uday Harikant from the Government PU College, Kumta (Uttara Kannada).

This is a completely government-sponsored programme for students who have completed their SSLC from government high schools and are currently studying PUC in the science stream at government colleges.

This programme has been organised by Japan under the India-Japan Exchange Programme to broaden intellectual horizons and foster scientific exploration among young learners.

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has been implementing the 'Japan Asia Youth Exchange Programme in Science', also known as the 'Sakura Science Programme', since 2014.

India has been participating in the programme since April 2016. However, the students from Karnataka were not part of the programme in 2025.

There are also students from other countries like Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa.

From India, the students are from schools across 15 states and Union Territories: Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

Officials said the students should be recipients of scholarships under the National Means cum Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Scheme of the Government of India to take part in the programme.

## Infant among 3 killed in accident

**RAIBAG (BELAGAVI DISTRICT), DHNS:** In a tragic accident, three members of a family, including a nine-month-old baby, died after the bike they were riding in collided with a goods autorickshaw that was plying on the wrong side at Nagral near the Raibag Railway Station in Belagavi district on Monday evening.

Police said that the auto, which was heading towards Raibag from Bommanal, collided with the bike, knocking the two-wheeler down. Mahantesh Ashok Rane (27), who was riding the bike, his wife Payal (23), and their nine-month-old infant son Samarth died on the spot, while the couple's three-year-old son Chaitanya survived.


**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

**E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2026-27/09 Dated : 20-05-2026**

| Name of the Work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| (I) Recoupment of ballast at TSS, SP/SSP and provision of cable trench covers (II) Provision of earthing and bonds at SSP/SP, FOB and Platform Shelters in Bengaluru Division | Rs. 76,89,998.26 |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10-06-2026**

**E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2026-27/10 Dated : 20-05-2026**

| Name of the Work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Bengaluru (SBC) Division - Improvement to earthing in 600m tunnel between Solur (SOLR) and Thippasandra (TASA) | Rs. 16,81,359.12 |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10-06-2026**

**E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2026-27/11 Dated : 20-05-2026**

| Name of the Work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Dodballapur (DBU) - OHE modifications in connection with Provision of Emergency Dispatch cross over at Yelahanka (YNK) end for providing Universal R&D facility to all running lines and connectivity from Tower Car Shed to existing shunting Neck including extension of existing neck from 440 to 600m. | Rs. 80,58,459/- |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10-06-2026**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to enter into Joint Development transaction with respect to the property mentioned hereunder as the schedule property from it's Land Owner by name **SRI.K.SIVA RAO** S/o Sri. Kutumba Rao, Aged about 73 Years, Residing at No.5, 28th Main BTM II Stage, Bengaluru - 560 076. In case any member of the General Public has got any claim over the Schedule Property as mentioned hereunder it is hereby called upon to approach the undersigned with all relevant documents within 7 days from the date of this notice.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

**ITEM NO.1** : All that piece and parcel of undeveloped residentially converted land property bearing Sy.No.102 (Old Sy.No.49) measuring 2 acres, situated at Anjanapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, bounded on:

**East by :** Property belonging to N.Byrappa,
**West by :** Halla / Storm water drain,
**North by :** Property belonging to Munishamy,
**South by:** Property belonging to Hote Muniyappa,

**ITEM NO.2 :** All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped residentially converted land property bearing Sy.No. 103, measuring 1 acre 35 guntas and 5 guntas kharab, situated at Anjanapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, bounded on:

**East by :** Property belong to Ananthaiah,
**West by :** Halla / Storm water drain,
**North by:** Property belonging to Nice Road,
**South by :** Property belonging to K.Siva Rao,

**Bangalore Dated :** 26/5/2026

**B.S. RADHANANDAN Advocate**
No.239/1, 4th Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560 018. Phone : 9845009885
Email : nandanradha@yahoo.com



**GOVT. OF JHARKHAND**
**URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**
**OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD, CHAKRADHARPUR - 833102**

**Short Term e-Procurement Notice**

**e-Tender Reference No: CKP/NP/06/2026-27 Date:- 26-05-2026**

| Sl. No | Name the Work | Gr. No | BOQ Rate (in Rs.) | EMD (in Rs.) | Tender Fee (in Rs.) | Completion time | Name of the concerned office |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14वें वित्त आयोग के तहत | | | | | | | |
| 1 | BEAUTIFICATION OF RANI TALAB IN CHAKRADHARPUR NAGAR PARISHAD WEST SINGHBHM | 1 | 96497945.00 | 964980.00 | 10000.00 | 638 DAYS | Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Chakradharpur . |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | **Date of Publication of Tender on website** | Date :- 05-06-2026 |
| 02 | Date/Time for receipt of bids(online) | From 05-06-2026 at 05.00 PM to 18-06-2026 up to 05.00 PM |
| 03 | Date of Bid Opening | 22-06-2026 at 11.00 AM |
| 04 | Name & address of office inviting tender | Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad Chakradharpur |
| 05 | Contact no. of Procurement officer | Mobile - 7779978855 |
| 06 | Helpline number | Mobile - 06587355843 |

NOTE:- Only eTenders will be accepted. Separate EMD and Tender Fee have to be given for different groups. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

**Executive Officer**
**Nagar Parishad Chakradharpur**

**PR 380849 West Singhbhum(26-27).D**



**GOVT. OF JHARKHAND**
**URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**
**OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD, CHAKRADHARPUR - 833102**

**Very Short Term e-Procurement Notice**

**e-Tender Reference No: CKP/NP/07/2026-27 Date:- 26-05-2026**

| Sl. No | Name the Work | Gr. No | BOQ Rate (in Rs.) | EMD (in Rs.) | Tender Fee (in Rs.) | Completion time | Name of the concerned office |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 वें वित्त आयोग के तहत | | | | | | | |
| 1 | CONSTRUCTION OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF STP FOR RANI TALAB IN CHAKRADHARPUR NAGAR PARISHAD DISTRICT WEST SINGHBHUM | 1 | 18184100.00 | 363700.00 | 10000.00 | 270 DAYS | Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Chakradharpur. |
| 14वें वित्त आयोग के तहत | | | | | | | |
| 2 | CONSTRUCTION OF RCC CULVERT AND DRAINAGE CHANNEL FROM RANI TALAB TO SANJAY RIVER, DISTRICT WEST SINGHBHUM (FROM 0.0 KM TO 0.130 KM) (CO-ORDINATE 22$^0$ 40'34.6"N 85$^0$36'56.9" TO 22$^0$ 40'30.6"N 85$^0$36'59.7" E) | 2 | 7784366.00 | 155700.00 | 10000.00 | 180 DAYS | |
| 3 | CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE CHANNEL FROM RANI TALAB TO SANJAY RIVER, DISTRICT WEST SINGHBHUM (FROM 0.130 KM TO 0.332 KM) (CO-ORDINATE 22$^0$ 40'30.6"N 85$^0$36'59.7"E TO 22$^0$ 40'25.4"N 85$^0$37' 02.5" E) | 3 | 8711137.00 | 174250.00 | 10000.00 | 180 DAYS | |
| 4 | INSTALLATION OF MINI HIGH MAST IN DIFFERENT WARD UNDER NAGAR PARISHAD CHAKRADHARPUR | 4 | 3536950.00 | 70750.00 | 10000.00 | 120 DAYS | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | **Date of Publication of Tender on website** | Date :- 05-06-2026 |
| 02 | Date/Time for receipt of bids(online) | From 05-06-2026 at 05.00 PM to 18-06-2026 up to 05.00 PM |
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**NOTE:-** Only eTenders will be accepted. Separate EMD and Tender Fee have to be given for different groups. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

**Executive Officer**
**Nagar Parishad Chakradharpur**

**PR.NO.380850 West Singhbhum(26-27):D**



**J.C. FLOWERS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED**

**Registered Office: 203-206, 2nd Floor, Wing A, Inspire BKC, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, India**
**CIN: U74999MH2015PTC264081 | Ph. No.+91 22 6978 4100 | Email: teamjcfarc@jcfarc.com | website: www.jcfarc.com**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**
**APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Co-Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s), Guarantor(s) as mentioned in column (i) in the below table, that the below described immovable properties as mentioned in column (ii) below, mortgaged / charged in favour of the **J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of JCF YES TRUST 2022-23/1 ("Secured Creditor')**, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer (AO) of Secured Creditor, **will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "without recourse" basis, on July 02, 2026 between 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM** for recovery of the amounts mentioned in column (iii) herein below due to Secured Creditor together with further interest, costs and other expenses thereon. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are mentioned below for the property.

**DETAILS OF SECURED ASSET PUT FOR AUCTION**

| Sl. No. | Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower /Guarantor | Description of Property | Total Outstanding Dues as per Demand Notice* | Reserve Price | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **1. Neptune Travels India Private Limited ("Borrower")**<br>**2. Mr. Harinder Agarwal ("Borrower"/ "Guarantor"/ "Mortgagor")**<br>**3. Ms. Uma Agarwal ("Co-borrower"/ "Guarantor")**<br>**4. Ms. Monica Agarwal ("Guarantor")** | **Schedule "A" Property** : All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land measuring a total extent of 1 Acre 20 Guntas now bearing BBMP Khatha No. 5 carved out and forming a part of Sy.No. 49/ 1B, situated at Kothanur Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No. ALN(East).Sr.(KH).264/2007-08 dated 12/11/2008 read with official memorandum bearing ALN(East)SR(KH) 264/2007-08 dated 25/08/2010 , both issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore) and **Bounded on** East: Road; West: Remaining Portion of Property bearing Sy.No. 49/1 B; North: Property being portion of Sy.No.49/1B on which Orchid Woods Project has been developed; South: Remaining Portion of Property in Sy.No.49/1B;<br>**Schedule "B" Property :** 4% undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule A property measuring about 2613.6 Sq. ft in an undivided state has been sold to the Purchaser by the Owner/Vendor under this deed.<br>**Schedule "C" Property :** All that piece and parcel of the Row House bearing No.21, measuring about 5476.5 sq ft of super built up area along with 2613.6 Sq Ft of the undivided share in residential apartment known as "CORINTH" constructed on BBMP Khata No.5, carved out and farming a part of Sy.No.49/1B, situated at Kothanur Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk., consisting of Four bedrooms with RCC roofings, marble flooring ,teakwood doors and aluminums windows comprising of Basement, ground and 2(two) upper floors constructed on the Schedule A Property with terrace area attached thereto along with 2 (two) covered car parking spaces exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the purchaser in the basement of the row house inclusive of the proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, stair-case and other areas of common use. | **Rs. 27,10,14,438.30 (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Ten Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight and Paise Thirty Only)** | **Rs. 5,00,00,000/- (Rupees Five Crore Only)** | **Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh only)** |

*Dues outstanding as per the Demand notice under SARFAESI Act, 2002 dated August 24, 2021, together with further interest, costs and expenses thereon from August 1, 2021.

To the best of the knowledge of the Secured Creditor there are no known encumbrances on the above secured assets other than those of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are hereby advised to do their own due diligence related to the Secured Asset before submission of bid.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and the bid documents, please refer to the **website: https://www.jcfarc.com and/ or https://www.bankeauctions.com**

This notice is also a Thirty days' notice to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor under Rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Please note that in case of any discrepancies, the notice for sale published in English will be considered as final.

**Date: May 27, 2026**
**Place: Bangalore**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer**
**For J. C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.**
**(Acting in its capacity as Trustee of JCF YES Trust 2022-23/1)**



**ATTENTION: TAX DEDUCTORS**

**DON'T LET A MISSED DEADLINE BECOME A DAILY EXPENSE.**

**Miss The Date. Pay The Price.**
Pay **₹200 per day** of delay in filing your TDS Statement.

**File TDS Statement by: 31st May, 2026**

**For the quarter ending on 31st March, 2026 by 31st May, 2026**

**DOWNLOAD TDS CERTIFICATE**

- In Form No. 16/16A, containing 7 character TDS certificate number, mandatorily from TRACES Portal https://www.tdscpc.gov.in
- Only a TDS certificate downloaded from the TRACES Portal, is a valid certificate. TDS certificate cannot be downloaded from the TRACES Portal in case the PAN is incorrect or not specified in the e-filed TDS statement.
- For deductions made for non-PAN non-residents, and reported in form 27Q, Transaction Based Report (TBR) may be downloaded instead of TDS certificate.

**ISSUE TDS CERTIFICATE**

In Form 16 (for salary payments) and Form No. 16A (for payments other than salary) for the quarter ended 31st March, 2026 by 15th June, 2026.

(Delay in issue of TDS certificate can result in penalty of ₹500/- for each day of default, not exceeding the amount of tax deductible/ collectible)

**ALERT!**

- Deductors who have deducted tax and have not deposited the same by the due date must do so immediately.
- All deductors must register themselves at https://www.tdscpc.gov.in
- Deductors to quote their TAN correctly and also PAN of the deductees so that they get their due tax credit.
- Non-quoting of PAN or TAN in TDS statement may lead to levy of penalty/defaults in processing.
- Quote correct CIN of the challans to avoid default for short payment.
- Deductors may avoid defaults about PAN and challan errors in preliminary screening, by responding to email/SMS from CPC(TDS) within seven days of receipt of email/SMS.
- Use PAN-TAN Master facility at TRACES Portal to verify correctness of PAN of the deductee.
- If there is no transaction liable to TDS/TCS to report for the quarter, do intimate the same at TRACES Portal using "Declaration for Non filing" functionality, to avoid notice for non-filing of TDS statement.

e-FILE TDS STATEMENT

Timely & correct TDS filing helps Taxpayers receive correct Tax credit

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Kar Saathi

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**Central Board of Direct Taxes**

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CBC 15401/13/0002/2627



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**अधिकारी प्रविष्टि**

तकनीकी स्नातक कोर्स (टी जी सी-144) (जनवरी 2027 में निर्धारित) के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

आवेदन 11 जून 2026 तक खुले रहेंगें।

**OFFICER ENTRY**

Online applications are invited for Technical Graduate Course (TGC-144) (scheduled in Jan 2027).

Applications will remain open till **11 June 2026.**

नोट :
1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएँ।

**Note :**
1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
2. For detailed Notification, please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic in

cbc 10601/11/0006/2627

## RESTORED & REINSTALLED

Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Roshan and Kannada activists perform abhisheka with water and milk to a replica of the Halmidi inscription, reinstalled on the premises of the DC's office in Belagavi on Tuesday. The Halmidi inscription, dated around 450 AD, is regarded as the earliest known inscription written in the Kannada language. DH PHOTO

# ATF price hike may hit fliers' domestic travel plans

## High fuel rates remain a challenge for airlines

**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU, DHNS

For Bengalureans, rising aviation fuel prices are likely to dampen domestic travel. While Indian airlines are wary of expansion plans, international traffic through the city is starting to recover, according to Hari Marar, managing director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL).

For International travellers, connectivity continues to improve with the help of European airlines. While Indian carriers are wary of launching new routes, the trend is different in the international market.

Speaking about the impact of recent developments in West Asia and elevated fuel costs on the aviation sector, Marar said traffic to Europe and the United States via West Asian hubs had declined. "The Middle East has for a long time been a very large hub for travel of Indians to Europe and America, and the reduced flight capacity on these routes has led to a fall in passenger numbers," he told *DH* on Tuesday.

However, some of the decline has already been offset by airlines, specifically European carriers, increasing services to Bengaluru, he pointed out.

"For example, airlines like British Airways and the Virgin Atlantic have doubled their frequency to Bengaluru. In all, we have seen an increase in movement on international routes," Marar said, adding that European carriers have helped manage the impact of the uncertainty surrounding the West Asian airlines.

For International travellers, connectivity continues to improve with the help of European airlines. DH FILE PHOTO

Earlier this month, Swiss International Airlines (SWISS) announced the launch of new nonstop flights between Bengaluru and Zurich, set to take off in October 2026. The increase in European routes remains in stark contrast to the airports operations in 2025-26, where no new European destinations were added.

A recovery in West Asia traffic would result in "an overall increase in international flight operations out of Bengaluru. In the long term the trajectory of aviation will improve", predicted Marar. Increase in the number of flights from Bengaluru to Europe is also an attempt by European airlines to grab a slice of the pie from the Gulf-based airline sector, said Rohit Hangal, director of Sphere Travelmedia and Exhibitions.

"While some of it is aimed at tourism, it is mostly aimed at the crowd wanting to travel to the US. Which is why they are targeting Bengaluru, as there is a constant movement of people to the US. Europe is trying to get that crowd by harbouring connectivity," he explained.

However, as international travel continues to improve, Marar highlighted that high fuel prices remain a challenge for airlines. "I think airlines will be a little cautious in launching new routes, especially Indian carriers. Fuel forms a significant portion of their operating costs. As long as fuel costs remain inflated at these levels, we have a problem with them not being able to launch flights," he said adding that higher operating costs could also affect fleet expansion plans.

## Bhatkal: VHP demands restoration of Murinakatte

**BHATKAL (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS:** The Bhatkal unit of Vishwa Hindu Parishad has warned of a massive protest if the district administration does not reconstruct the damaged Murinakatte at its location within 48 hours.

Speaking to reporters here on Tuesday, VHP Bhatkal unit president Ramakrishna Naik said that Murinakatte was constructed at the site earmarked by the police on Sunday.

"However, the same platform was damaged by a group of Muslims. It is suspected that there were 3,000 people in that group but the police have registered case only against 8. But, they have registered case against 50 Hindus, who condemned and protested against the damage caused to the platform," he added.

He demanded that all the persons involved in damaging the platform must be booked.

## 'Beware of illegal coaching centres in garb of PU colleges'

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The department of pre-university education has warned parents and students about unapproved coaching or training institutions in the garb pre-university colleges.

Following complaints against such illegal institutions conducting coaching for NEET and other competitive exams for admissions to professional courses by not allowing students to attend regular PU classes in college, the department has issued an advisory to parents and students to beware of such institutions.

"Certain PU colleges are conducting academic activities at locations other than those officially approved by the department. In some instances, students are formally admitted to recognised PU colleges. However, the actual academic instruction is done in unapproved coaching or training institutions that do not possess requisite permissions under applicable regulations," reads the advisory.

Calling such practices violative of the provisions of the pre-university rules 2024 and Karnataka Education Act, 1983, the department has warned of derecognising such institutions.

"Institutions found to be engaging in such violations shall be liable for regulatory action, including withdrawal of academic recognition and cancellation of permission to undertake PU courses, after providing due opportunity to submit explanations," the department said.

It has warned parents and students not to opt for such institutions. "It is brought to the attention of parents and students that any such action may result in serious disruption to academic progression of students in such institutions," the department stated. The department has advised parents seeking admissions to their children to I and II PU classes to verify the authorised location of the college, approved combinations offered and sanctioned intake by referring to the official website of the department.

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10th YEAR REMEMBRANCE

B.K. IYCHETTIRA M. BOPANNA
A decade without you, yet your presence lives on in our hearts, our memories & every moment of love you left behind.
Forever loved & always cherished.
Mrs. BOJIE BOPANNA & FAMILY

OBITUARY

A beloved husband, loving father, respected teacher and the kindest soul With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved A.V. Sreerama Reddy on 25th May 2026, Viewing at his residence at No.1359 32nd E Cross 4th T Block, Jayanagar Bangalore-41 on 27.05.2026 from 9 am to 1 pm Cremation at Wilson Garden Around 4 pm.
You will always remain in our hearts
Deeply mourned by :
R L V Rathnamma (Wife) , Chitra S Reddy (Daughter) & V Anand (Brother)
A V Sreerama Reddy
Retd Principal, GIPT
07.03.1957 to 25.05.2026

# Licence to pvt power firms: 'Law can also be interpreted for public good'

## 'If company has to set up full infra, it may not offer good price'

**SNEHA RAMESH**
BENGALURU, DHNS:

Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) may have applied for licence for power distribution in parts of Karnataka, but the final decision lies with the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), officials have said.

While the Electricity Act, 2003, mandates that the licence should be provided if the applicant meets the norms stipulated in the Act, the law can also be interpreted considering the larger public good.

Interpretation of the existing law is crucial in deciding on the applications.

While plainly, the licence can be approved if the applicant meets the requirement, it is also important to interpret the rules from the law of natural justice point of view, experts said.

Wires and distribution networks constitute huge infrastructure and duplicating such infrastructure could snatch away the economic benefit.

"If the new company has to set up a complete infrastructure, it may not offer a very competitive price. If there is no larger public good, creating duplicate inefficient infrastructure does not make sense. The regulator is bound to justify if the decision to allow another private company is doing any public good," one of the experts said.

It is also important to scrutinise the network rollout plan to understand if the private companies meet the universal supply obligation.

"They cannot cherry-pick a particular group of high-value consumers. It is important that they are ready to serve everyone who meets the norms to be a valid consumer," another expert said. While many argue that there are multiple power distribution companies in Western countries, which has increased efficiency, that may not be the case in India.

"In Western countries, physical infrastructure like wires are run by a separate company and distribution companies only pay a rent. This way, there is no question of infrastructure duplication and hence, multiple companies can be approved without fear of such redundancy," the expert said.

However, KERC officials said that the application has just been filed and they will look into the matter after objections or suggestions are filed.

### Employees warn of agitation

The Federation of Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Union and Association have warned of a statewide agitation if the KERC approves Tata Power Company Limited's (TPCL) application to obtain licence for power distribution across 19 districts in Karnataka.

The federation said that it was ready to launch a legal battle if KERC goes ahead to approve the application. The representatives from the federation called the move for privatisation of the energy sector "anti-employee and against the interests of the citizens of the state."

The biggest fear among the employees seems to be job losses or future recruitment.

"Privatisation will completely freeze new employment creation, while directly jeopardising the job security, career progression, and livelihoods of the existing permanent, contract, and outsourced employees," said Balaram K, president of the federation.

"The success of Karnataka's landmark socio-welfare schemes — such as free electricity for farmers' irrigation pump sets (Ganga Kalyana Scheme), Gruha Jyothi stands on the relentless, day-and-night hard work of our employees," the federation said.

## Governor okays Dharwad Corporation Bill with conditions

**DHARWAD, DHNS:** Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has approved the Bill for a separate municipal corporation for Dharwad. The approval comes nearly 13 months after the proposal to bifurcate the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation was sent to the Raj Bhavan. The governor, however, imposed conditions, stating the bifurcation should take effect only after the term of the existing elected body ends.

He also directed the government not to alter civic boundaries until the census process is completed, as per instructions from the Directorate of Census Operations.

He further advised the government to ensure adequate financial support and a fair revenue-sharing mechanism between the proposed Dharwad corporation and the existing Hubballi corporation before implementation.

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh offers prayers at Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru on Tuesday.

## Ranveer Singh offers prayers at Chamundi Hill

**MYSURU, DHNS:** Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh visited Sri Chamundeshwari temple atop the Chamundi hill and offered prayers on Tuesday morning.

Sri Chamundeshwari Kshethra Authority secretary M J Roopa said that they were not informed about his visit. "No protocol was arranged. He visited the temple like other devotees, wearing a mask. He introduced himself at the gate of the sanctum sanctorum," she added.

According to priest Sunil Dixit, he sat before the deity near the sanctum sanctorum, offered prayers and offered 'Archane' in the names of his family members.

Singh landed in controversy after allegedly mimicking the depiction of the deity in the film 'Kantara Chapter 1' during the Filmfare award ceremony in Goa. This led to an FIR being registered against him. Later, the K'taka High Court directed him to offer personal prayers as an act of atonement.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
The public is hereby informed that my client, Sri Mahesh B. Patel, S/o B.B. Patel, residing at No.2 V. V. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560 004, was the absolute owner of agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 300/* of Abburu Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapattana Taluk, measuring 38 guntas, acquired by registered Sale Deed in 2008 (Reg. No. CAN-1-00808/2008-09). The original prior Sale Deed executed by Sethumadhava Rao in favour of Dyavarasegowda is lost. Complaint filed (No. 2211725/2026, dated 20.05.2026). The public is cautioned not to deal with the said missing document. Any person having claims or information should notify the undersigned within 7 days.
MARTHESHA G S,
Advocate
#70, 2nd Main Road, K.R. Garden, Murgeshpalya, BLR – 560017
Ph:98862 64750
Bengaluru, 26-May-2026

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2) Civil Advocate
full time candidates for Bangalore office. Good salary will be given.
Please Mail detailed resume to
developersdirector@gmail.com

WANTED FOR TSS Private Ltd. 1. ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE- 2 yrs + exp. 2. MARKETING EXECUTIVE (with motorcycle)- 1- 2 yrs exp. Company based in Indiranagar. Whatsapp/ Call: 9845694772/ 9845293771. Mail: biswas@thumpserve.com

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Any Degree with Min 1 year experience
PRE-PRIMARY MAIN TEACHER
Any Degree with D.Ed/ NTT
PRE-PRIMARY ASSISTANT TEACHER
PUC with D.Ed/ NTT (Graduates Preferred)
Apply immediately to Hon. Secretary
Email: contact.indiranagar@ppec.edu.in
last date 4th June 2026, Thursday

GURUKULA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Requires English, Science and Computer Teachers for Primary. 7829338292 Near Magadi Road Metro Station, Bangalore-560023

WANTED EXPERIENCED science teacher for high school in Electronic City. For more details contact: 8197984094/ 7406532264

URGENTLY REQUIRED experienced TEACHERS for High School Social, Computer and Pre-primary teacher for MOTHER MARY ENGLISH SCHOOL, Thippasandra Bangalore. Contact: 080-25281661, 8762038545

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REQUIRED: TEACHER'S for Nursery, Primary & High school for SRI ANNAPURNA VIDYAANIKETAN, Opposite PES University Veerabhadranagar, BSK 3rd stage, Bangalore-85. Call-7348894111

WANTED TRAINED EXPERIENCED HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION K.R.L.S. ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, Domlur-Layout, Bangalore-71. Mobile:9513777730 krlsschools@gmail.com

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Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, POORNIMA B S, D/o H.N Padmavathamma and W/o Manoj Kumar A, aged 29 years old, R/a #95, Mathru Krupa, 3rd Cross, Telecom Layout, K P Agrahara, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560023, have changed my name to S. POORNAA MANOJ vide affidavit dated 25.05.2026 sworn before notary Deepa. M., Bangalore.

I, PRAFULLA VADIRAJA RAO R/o, #56/2, ASHIRWAD, Reservoir Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-04 have changed my name as PRAFULLA Vide affidavit dated 25/05/2026 before Notary Jayappa. A, Bangalore

I, ZAFERULLA KHAN S/o. Amanulla Khan Aged 63 years resident of #802, Near Someshwara Temple, Kote, Kolar- 563101. I have changed my name to ZAFRULLA KHAN vide affidavit dated 20.05.2026 before Notary Venkataswamy Kolar. Henceforth I shall be called as ZAFRULLA KHAN only.

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## SC refuses to hear plea on legislators' Cabinet rank

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a petition challenging the Karnataka government's decision to grant Cabinet rank to 42 legislators, including MLAs and MLCs, as heads of various boards and corporations.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant heard senior advocate K Parameshwar, who appeared for the petitioner Suri Payala, an employee of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

The petition had challenged a March 4 order of the Karnataka High Court that dismissed Payala's plea.

During the brief hearing, the apex court asked the petitioner to first file a review petition before the high court.

Parameshwar argued that the high court had not dealt with the matter with the seriousness it required.

The petitioner contended that the boards and corporations have no independent funds and draw money from the Consolidated Fund. Granting Cabinet rank to the legislators, he said, would entail several financial benefits, including higher salaries, official vehicles, drivers, fuel allowance, house rent allowance and medical reimbursements.

The plea argued that conferring Cabinet status on these legislators amounts to holding an 'office of profit', violating Article 191 of the Constitution. It also contended that the move infringes Article 164, which restricts the size of the Council of Ministers.

The Karnataka High Court had earlier dismissed the petition, observing that it was "not entirely in public interest" and was partly driven by the petitioner's "aspirations for certain posts." The high court noted that the petitioner had failed to make full disclosure of his personal interest as required in public interest litigations.

The apex court disposed of the special leave petition, granting liberty to the petitioner to approach the high court with a review petition.

## KPCC appoints SIR observers in 40 organisational districts

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has appointed observers for 40 organisational districts to oversee developments related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

"KPCC working president G C Chandrashekar has been appointed KPCC administration in-charge," read the press note released by KPCC vice-president and former Legislative Council Chairman V R Sudarshan.

The list of observers includes senior Congressmen such as former MPs V S Ugrappa and S P Muddahanumegowda, Guarantees Implementation Authority Chairman H M Revanna, Prof M V Rajeev Gowda, Mansoor Ali Khan, MPs Priyanka Jarkiholi, E Tukaram, Sunil Bose, MLC Ramesh Babu among others.

# Siddaramaiah 'shocked' as high command seeks his resignation

### Decision after marathon meetings of top brass

**AJITH ATHRADY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was reportedly shell-shocked after top Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, asked him to step down as chief minister of Karnataka, sources said on Tuesday.

Siddaramaiah, who was hoping to complete the remaining two years of his term and was keen on a Cabinet reshuffle, did not anticipate the high command's decision, according to sources.

The development came during a series of marathon meetings held at the Congress headquarters - Indira Bhavan.

Soon after meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Surjewala, a visibly surprised Siddaramaiah proceeded to the residence of Energy Minister K J George here.

Ministers close to him — Byrathi Suresh, H C Mahadevappa, and G Parameshwara — joined the gathering, where he disclosed that Rahul Gandhi had asked him to resign.

He reportedly told his supporters that he would return to Bengaluru immediately.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar at Indira Bhavan ahead of a meeting with the Congress leadership, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

**Rajya Sabha seat?**

The party is believed to have offered him a Rajya Sabha seat, but the veteran leader expressed no interest in shifting to national politics. Sources said Lok Sabha member Priyanka Gandhi Vadra strongly pushed for leadership change.

The Congress high command is working on a smooth transition formula that would allow Siddaramaiah a graceful exit. The move is driven by multiple factors, including Siddaramaiah turning 80 in 2028 and concerns over the government's governance record.

These issues are also believed to be the reasons behind the delay in approving the Cabinet reshuffle he had sought.

The leadership tussle intensified after Siddaramaiah completed two-and-a-half years in office in June 2025. This duration was widely viewed as part of an informal power-sharing understanding reached between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar at the time of government formation in 2023.

Shivakumar has been frequently visiting Delhi to remind the high command of this arrangement.

Hundreds of leaders including ministers and MLAs loyal to both camps have been camping in the national capital for the past two days. In a crucial six-hour meeting, Rahul Gandhi is understood to have urged both leaders to set aside differences and work together in the interest of party.

He reportedly conveyed that the prolonged succession debate had harmed the party's image and that earlier commitments must be fulfilled.

The Congress headquarters turned into a media spectacle on Tuesday, with over 300 journalists and more than 100 television crews stationed outside in the sweltering heat, providing continuous live coverage of the developments.

# Polling for 7 MLC seats on June 18

BENGALURU, DHNS:

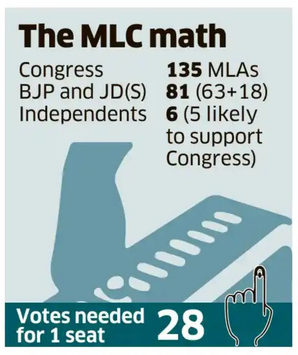
The biennial polls for seven Legislative Council seats in will be held on June 18, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on Tuesday.

In a press statement, the ECI announced that the last date to submit nominations is June 8, followed by the polling on June 18. The counting of votes will be held on the day of polling itself.

Members of the Assembly form the electoral college for the elections. Of these seven seats, at present, 3 are held by Congress (B K Hariprasad, Naseer Ahmed and Tippannappa), 3 by BJP (M T B Nagaraj, Sunil Vallyapur and Prathap Simha Naik), and 1 by JD(S) — Govindaraju.

Each candidate will need 28 votes to emerge victorious. The Congress, which has 135 MLAs (137 reduced to 135 after Vinay Kulkarni was disqualified and D Sudhakar passed away), is guaranteed to win 4 seats. The BJP and JD(S) together have 81 MLAs (63 of BJP, 18 of the regional party) and they are guaranteed 2 seats.

The Congress is expected to win the remaining one seat as well, since it has 23 excess votes, and is also likely to get the support of independents Darshan Puttanaiah, Latha Mallikarjun, K H Puttaswamy Gowda, S T Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar (the latter two were expelled the BJP), which exactly fetches the required 28 votes.




The BJP and the JD(S) together have 25 excess votes.

In the 75-member Council, there are currently 37 Congress members, 29 BJP members, 7 JD(S) members, 1 independent (Lakhan Jarkiholi) and the chairman (Basavaraj Horatti).

After the elections, the Congress numbers will rise to 38 (potentially 39, if the party wins seventh seat too.) The NDA's tally will fall to 36 or 35, depending on the outcome in the seventh seat.

The Karnataka Assembly, with a total strength of 224, currently has 222 members.

# Govt to weed out 1.04 lakh 'ineligible' Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries

### Plans to recover Rs 100 cr already disbursed

**PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government has identified 1.04 lakh ineligible beneficiaries under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, with around Rs 100 crore in financial assistance allegedly transferred to accounts linked to deceased or otherwise ineligible recipients.

Following the findings, the government has decided to conduct a physical verification of beneficiaries across the state to weed out the deceased and remove ineligible persons from the list.

A member of the Guarantees Implementation Committee said, "The monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,000 had been deposited into the bank accounts of 1.04 lakh beneficiaries who were either deceased or ineligible."

"In some cases, the money was received by persons who were not listed as the women heads of the family in the ration card, which is a prerequisite," the member said.

The government has ordered the scrutiny of the beneficiary lists following suspicion of misuse involving nearly Rs 100 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday has said that the government is planning a taluk-wise review of the beneficiary list to weed out the deceased beneficiaries.

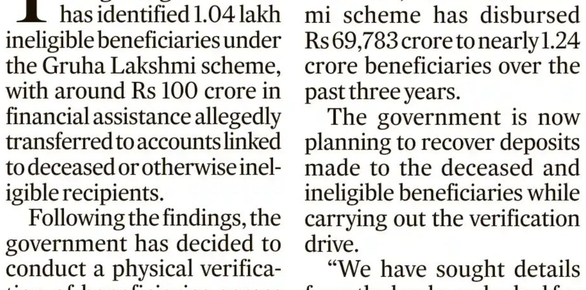
Officials said many bank accounts continued to receive the money for several months after the death of beneficiaries due to the absence of a system to identify such cases.

To date, the Gruha Lakshmi scheme has disbursed Rs 69,783 crore to nearly 1.24 crore beneficiaries over the past three years.

The government is now planning to recover deposits made to the deceased and ineligible beneficiaries while carrying out the verification drive.

"We have sought details from the banks and asked for a refund of the amount transferred through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in cases where the beneficiary is deceased. The Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) will weed out the deceased from the list of beneficiaries. Officials have also been directed to stop payments to such bank accounts," an official said.

Meanwhile, the Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee is also considering collecting documents afresh from beneficiaries and may introduce a system of submitting an annual life certificate to banks to ensure the beneficiary is alive and that the money is remitted without interruption.



Gruha Lakshmi, one of the Congress government's flagship programmes, provides Rs 2,000 to women heads of families every month. In the photo, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is seen launching the scheme in 2023. DH FILE PHOTO

# Heavy rains lash parts of state, bring relief from heat

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and gusty winds lashed several parts of the state on Tuesday, bringing relief from the intense summer heat.

In Chikkamagaluru, the rain, initially began in Mullayanagiri and Chandradrona mountain ranges, and soon spread to surrounding areas. It was accompanied by strong winds and thunder. The rain, which began around 2 pm, continued for nearly an hour.

Due to the intense rainfall, Honnammanahalli waterfall cascaded in full force. Roads in Chikkamagaluru city also flooded due to the rainfall. On the Adichunchanagiri Engineering College road, waterlogging submerged cars. Roads including Basavanahalli Road, Market Road, MG Road, and Mallandur Road were inundated with rainwater.

Heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds and thunder also lashed Naregal town in Gadag district. The sudden showers flooded the roads. The power supply was disrupted as tree branches fell on the supply lines.

A motorcyclist navigates a flooded road following heavy rains in Chikkamagaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Vemgal town in Kolar district also received heavy rainfall on Tuesday evening. It had also rained heavily on Saturday and Sunday. The rain brought respite from sweltering heat.

A six-year-old girl was killed after the roof of her house collapsed in strong winds in Hulsoor in Bidar district. The deceased has been identified as Mahira. A Kodagu-based software engineer had died in a lightning strike near Yelwala, in Mysuru taluk, on Monday evening.

The deceased was identified as Roshan (38), a resident of Madikeri. According to the Yelwala Police, Roshan had come to his relative's house in Mysuru. He had gone to inspect a site and took shelter under a tree as it was raining, when he was struck by lightning.

# Cong urged to give Rajya Sabha seat for Muslim community

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Federation of State Muslim Organisations has urged the Congress to allocate at least one seat to the Muslim community in the upcoming elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the state on June 18.

Noting that only one of the 12 Rajya Sabha members currently representing Karnataka is a Muslim, the federation lamented that there isn't a single Lok Sabha member from Karnataka from the Muslim community.

**Less representation**

In a note, the federation lamented that despite voting for the Congress in a 'united and consolidated' manner, representation of Muslims in the state Cabinet, bureaucracy, major government institutions, universities and boards/corporations was much lower when compared to the population of the community.

The federation demanded that the Congress should uphold the vision and ideology of its top leadership by allocating at least one Rajya Sabha seat to a Muslim candidate in the upcoming elections.

According to sources in the party, Mansoor Ali Khan, who unsuccessfully contested from Bangalore Central seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, has chances of being chosen as a candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections.

# Vijay urges PM to reject K'taka's Mekedatu project

**E T B SIVAPRIYAN**
CHENNAI, DHNS

Complaining that Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's statement on the Mekedatu reservoir project has "caused a lot of concern" among farmers in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to advise the neighbouring state not to take up any new project without the concurrence of co-basin states.

In a letter to Modi on the eve of their scheduled meeting in Delhi, Vijay said the proposed reservoir at Mekedatu, with a storage capacity of 67.16 tmc ft just upstream of the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, is aimed at preventing flows generated in the uncontrolled catchment.

During his maiden Delhi visit after assuming office, Vijay will meet Modi and several union ministers, seeking financial assistance.

Vijay asked the prime minister to reject the DPR of the Mekedatu project proposal, saying it contravenes the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) and the February 16, 2018 Supreme Court judgment.

"...also advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up any new project without getting the concurrence of co-basin states and not to violate the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in totality," Vijay said.

The chief minister reminded the prime minister that the Supreme Court, in its judgment dated February 16, 2018, had held that the upper riparian state shall not take any action that affects the scheduled delivery of water to the lower riparian state.

"Hence, the act of proposing to construct a new reservoir by Karnataka would amount to a clear violation of the said judgment," Vijay told Modi.

The issue has returned to centrestage following Shivakumar's recent statements that Karnataka will go ahead with the project and that the foundation stone for constructing a new reservoir at Mekedatu will be laid soon.

Vijay told the PM that when Karnataka attempted to obtain Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting EIA study, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, at its meeting on July 19, 2019, opined that, in view of the inter-state issues involved, an amicable resolution needed to be reached between the states and returned the proposal.

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# KSPCB issues notices to 9 polluting industries in Koppal

DH IMPACT

**ANITHA PAILOOR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has issued notices to nine polluting industries in Koppal district, asking them to explain why action should not be initiated against them for violating environmental laws.

The Notice of Proposed Directions (NPD), a legal instrument that outlines punitive measures such as closure of units or disconnection of power supply, was issued after a ground report by *DH* prompted the Chief Minister's Office to seek an explanation from the district administration. The report highlighted the exposure of residents in more than 20 villages to toxic pollutants emitted by red-category industries in Koppal taluk.

As per procedure, the NPD has sought a response within 15 days, warning that failure to comply could invite action. However, KSPCB had issued similar NPDs to several of these industries in 2023 as well, but sources said no further action was taken thereafter.

In this case, the NPD has been issued for non-compliance with the provisions of the Water (Control of Pollution) Act and the Air (Control of Pollution) Act.

There are 24 large, red category industries in a five kilometre radius from Hirebaganal, of which 13 are sponge-iron industries. Villagers say that violating entities have managed to get away with no consequence for over a decade. This is done by filing a response showing compliance or a "valid objection" to the notice.

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Referring to the *DH* article, the Chief Minister's Office had sought details of the action taken from the Koppal Deputy Commissioner's Office.

The Deputy Commissioner's letter to the Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister also states that the district administration shut down two industries on May 21 as per the directions of the KSPCB and will take necessary action against three industries, for which closure directions have been recommended, after the KSPCB issues notices.

However, residents and protesters from these villages and Koppal town say that unless these NPDs are followed up with strict, time-bound action, merely issuing notices will not help, as was seen earlier in 2023.

"Though delayed, the government now appears to be taking some steps. However, past experience does not inspire much confidence. There must be comprehensive studies on the impact of polluting industries on public health and the environment, and the government should implement foolproof safeguards," says Allama Prabhu Bettadur, who has been leading protests against large red-category industries in Koppal.

The following are the companies on which NPD has been slapped: Tanush Ispat Private Limited Unit-1, (Sharavana Alloys Steel Private Limited) Hirebaganal; Tanush Ispat Private Limited Unit-2, (Harekrishna Metallics Steel Private Limited), Hirebaganal; ILC Iron & Steel, Kunikeri; Dhruvadesh Meta Steel Private Limited, Hirebaganal; Baba Akhila Sai Jyothi Industries, Chikkabaganal; Bhadra Shree Steel & Power Limited, Kunikeri; PBS Steel (M/s. P. Balasubhashetty & Sons), Halavarthi; Koppal Steels Pvt. Ltd., Kerehalli Village, Koppal Taluk; S K Steels Tech Private Limited, Halavarthi.

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# A poorly timed language mandate

The CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education)'s recent directive to schools on the mandatory introduction of a third language in the curriculum is poorly conceived and difficult to implement. In a May 15 circular, the Board told over 33,000 schools to initiate steps to teach a third language in Class 9, starting July 1. It stipulates that at least two of the three languages students learn under the three-language formula must be native Indian languages; the options include Hindi and Sanskrit. This order, issued at the beginning of the school year, will disrupt the academic programme and greatly inconvenience students, teachers, parents, and schools. Requiring students to learn what is essentially a new subject at an advanced stage of schooling can cause poor learning outcomes.

It is difficult to imagine how the CBSE could take such an arbitrary decision that has serious consequences for the students. The move is particularly harsh on those who have been learning foreign languages and are now expected to start afresh with another language. It will place a burden on the students, which will reflect on their overall performance, given the additional time the new subject demands. Most schools lack the infrastructure to ensure that the new subject is taught well. Textbooks are unavailable, and schools lack trained teachers. The CBSE has told schools to make temporary arrangements, such as assigning the work to teachers in other subjects who have "functional proficiency" in the additional language. It also recommended Class 6 textbooks, supplemented with local material, to be used in Class 9.

**The CBSE's move to force a third language will burden students and strain school systems**

The Board is reported to have stated, on April 9, that the compulsory three-language requirement for Class 9 would not be implemented until the 2029-30 academic year. What pushed it to reverse this decision, in just over a month? The move is also seen as going against the NEP (National Education Policy)'s position on teaching of languages and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, 2023. The CBSE held no consultations before taking this critical decision. The haste defies logic. Hindi is obviously the main beneficiary of the directive. Any move to teach Hindi in schools is likely to become contentious in non-Hindi states, and the manner in which it is sought to be done is particularly so. The Board has stuck to its position despite credible apprehensions and protests. It cannot lose sight of its primary concern – the students and their interests – and must withdraw this directive.

# Garbage contract: Risks without fallback

Bengaluru's garbage crisis has long stood as a monument to administrative failure. Rather than addressing it with structural reforms, the state cabinet has compounded the problem by deciding to award two waste-management packages worth Rs 39,437 crore to a single private concessionaire for 30 years. What has been sanctioned is not merely a service contract; it is the creation of a monopoly over one of the city's most essential civic functions – one that raises grave questions about financial prudence and accountability. Both the North and South Bengaluru packages will be handed over to Delhi MSW Solutions Ltd, a sister concern of the Hyderabad-based Ramky Group. The financial terms alone warrant serious scrutiny. Together, the contracts have escalated by nearly Rs 6,389 crore above the government's own initial estimates – the North package by approximately Rs 3,461 crore and the South by Rs 2,928 crore. That the cabinet chose to proceed despite these figures and repeated objections from the Finance Department is a serious lapse that demands explanation.

By advancing commitments of this magnitude without resolving the Finance Department's substantive concerns, the state cabinet has failed to exercise due diligence. This is a clear abdication of responsibility. Equally indefensible is the built-in 5% annual escalation clause. Compounded over 30 years, this provision means the municipal corporations could eventually pay more than four times the contracted base rate, imposing a crushing fiscal burden on future administrations and taxpayers alike. The concentration of risk is no less alarming. Entrusting both packages to a single corporate group places the entirety of Bengaluru's waste-management infrastructure at the mercy of one private entity for three decades. Should the concessionaire underperform, seek renegotiation, become embroiled in litigation, or face financial distress, the city would have no fallback. This effectively creates vendor lock-in, leading to a civic hostage situation.

**Bengaluru cannot afford an expensive private monopoly. A review is essential to ensure safeguards**

The government must seriously consider the Finance Department's recommendations: constitute an independent expert committee under the Additional Chief Secretary, reduce the concession period from 30 years to ten, and cap annual escalation at 2.5%. These are the minimum safeguards that sound public finance demands. That they were brushed aside raises questions of transparency and good governance. The window for correction, however, remains open. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has not yet signed the cabinet proceedings. He must use the opportunity to halt, independently review, and restructure these contracts before Bengaluru is trapped in a 30-year experiment that it may one day deeply regret.

NEW POWER BLOC

# Trump's ambitious push for a West Asia axis

The expanded Abraham Accords plan risks intensifying ideological tensions across the Arab world over Israel

**K S TOMAR**

United States President Donald Trump has once again placed the Abraham Accords at the centre of American diplomacy in West Asia. But unlike in 2020, when the agreements were projected as a diplomatic breakthrough between Israel and several Arab states, the current push comes amid continuing instability in Gaza, unresolved tensions with Iran, and deepening anti-Israel sentiment across much of the Muslim world.

Trump's recent outreach to leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, and Pakistan indicates that Washington is pursuing something larger than symbolic normalisation with Israel. The broader objective appears to be the construction of a strategic bloc linking Israel, the Gulf monarchies, and select Muslim-majority states under an American-led security framework.

The timing is politically significant. The unresolved Iran conflict continues to shape regional calculations due to fears of renewed confrontation. On Tuesday, the outcomes of diplomacy remained uncertain following the US's "self-defence" strikes in southern Iran and Iran's threats of retaliation.

However, Trump appears determined to convert ongoing diplomatic engagement into a wider geopolitical restructuring of West Asia. The renewed Abraham Accords campaign reflects Washington's desperate attempt to restore strategic authority in a region where American credibility has weakened after prolonged wars and the fallout of the Gaza crisis.

For Trump, the Accords also carry domestic political value. Among Republican conservatives and pro-Israel constituencies, the Abraham Accords remain one of the most celebrated achievements of his earlier presidency. Expanding them allows Trump to project himself as a leader capable of reshaping West Asian geopolitics while reinforcing America's alliance network.

Several Gulf states increasingly view limited security cooperation with Israel as strategically useful, particularly in balancing Iran's regional influence. The UAE and Bahrain have already normalised relations with Israel, while Saudi Arabia has periodically signalled openness despite slowing visible movement after the Gaza war intensified public anger across the Arab world.

This explains why Trump is now encouraging Muslim-majority countries to move collectively rather than individually. Reports that a recent American proposal during a conference call was met with silence from several participants, including Pakistan, reflected the political sensitivity surrounding the issue.

## Pakistan in a bind

No country illustrates this dilemma more sharply than Pakistan. Islamabad today faces perhaps the most complicated strategic balancing act in the Muslim world. On one side lies American dictate and the compulsion

for stable ties with Washington. On the other side lies the danger of domestic political upheaval if Pakistan appears willing to recognise Israel without a credible Palestinian settlement.

Pakistan's official position has remained unchanged for decades: recognition of Israel can only come after the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Inside Pakistan, the Palestine issue is linked not merely to foreign policy but also to ideology, religion, and national identity.

Successive Pakistani governments have also linked Palestine with Kashmir, arguing that both represent unresolved issues of Muslim self-determination. Any move towards recognising Israel without progress on Palestine could weaken Islamabad's diplomatic position on Kashmir and expose it to charges of political inconsistency.

Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif already governs amid economic distress and serious political instability. Imran Khan's continued popularity despite imprisonment means that any perceived concession on Israel could rapidly become a political weapon against the Sharif government. It may be recalled that Khan recognised the danger when he refused to join the Abraham Accords during Trump's earlier presidency.

Pakistan's military establishment is equally aware of the risks. Unlike Gulf monarchies, Pakistan cannot easily absorb mass religious mobilisation. Public sentiment on Palestine remains deeply emotional. Recognising Israel without visible progress on Palestinian statehood could trigger protests led by Islamist organisations and opposition parties.

This is why many analysts now describe Pakistan as caught in a strategic trap. Islamabad requires stable relations with Washington, financial support from international institutions, and continued engagement with Gulf allies. Yet yielding to American pressure on Israel, which is inevitable, could generate internal instability severe enough to threaten political order. Senator Lindsey Graham's warning of possible consequences for future US-Pakistan ties if Islamabad refuses to cooperate has only intensified anxieties within Pakistan's establishment.

The implications of Trump's renewed push extend beyond Pakistan. Across Asia, the expansion of the Abraham Accords could reshape regional alignments. India may emerge as one of the beneficiaries because New Delhi already maintains close strategic ties with both Israel and the major Gulf states. A broader West Asian framework involving Israel, the Gulf nations, and India could strengthen trade corridors and energy cooperation.

China, however, may view these developments cautiously. Beijing has invested heavily in balancing ties with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states. A more visible American-led regional bloc centred around Israel would complicate Chinese calculations and intensify strategic competition in West Asia.

For Iran, the Accords increasingly appear less like a peace initiative and more like an effort at strategic encirclement. Ironically, an initiative originally promoted as a framework for regional peace may ultimately deepen geopolitical polarisation across the Muslim world.

These governments may pursue strategic cooperation with Israel, but public opinion across much of the Muslim world continues to be shaped by Gaza, Palestine, and historical memory.

For Pakistan, the issue has become significantly larger than merely recognising Israel diplomatically. But embracing the Abraham Accords without meaningful progress on Palestine could trigger political consequences that neither the civilian government nor the military establishment may be prepared to contain.

*(The writer is a Shimla-based strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# Needles, cushions and a calling

My father's encouragement turned my childish curiosity into a career in medicine

**AKHILA S**

I was the youngest of the three, quite naughty—or rather, quietly naughty. My father was a doctor by profession, a dedicated soul who served the rural population. My mother was a simple and sincere homemaker. In addition to household work, she was passionate about maintaining a beautiful garden and a meticulously clean house. Every time she saw the cushion covers with intricate hand embroidery work adorning the chairs on the verandah, she smiled to herself, admiring the craftsmanship of her youngest sister.

On one such occasion, while arranging the cushions, she sensed they were heavier than normal and had a weird smell. My mother's heart sank as she figured out the cause. She almost yelled at my father, who was seated at a distance reading a newspaper, "These chairs are not a storage area for your medical kit that is always overflowing with needles and glass syringes." Those were the days of glass syringes and steel needles which were reused after sterilisation.

My father paused his reading and looked up at his anxious wife. "Look what your 6-year-old daughter has done to my cushions." Seeing his clueless expression, she explained, "She has been injecting water into them using your syringes as if they were patients. Now all the cushions are stinking. That apart, I am worried if she repeats this mischief on someone else or on herself." Looking back, I can now understand her concern and emotions.

When this incident unfolded, my father perhaps remembered the Kannada proverb '*Beleyuva pairu molakeyelle*' (A growing crop is judged by its sprout) and, in a way, anticipated my future. Pacifying my mother, he promised to be more careful and walked away with a mental list of plans for me.

To nourish my dreams, he soon handed me a first-aid kit with all the basic necessities such as Dettol, ointments, cotton, bandages, plasters and a packet of glucose powder.

As the newly chosen 'little health professional', I proudly carried this kit to school every day and brought it back with all things intact except for the glucose powder. It was the most sought-after goodie, as some of my classmates would feign exhaustion just to gobble a handful of this energy booster. My father would invariably refill the powder without ever reprimanding me. In fact, his heart would swell with pride listening to my 'first aid' stories at school, gently encouraging me to follow my dreams.

Little did I know that the first aid kit given to me as a diversion from harmful experimentations would inspire me to pursue medicine as a passion and profession.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Crisis calls for introspection

The Finance Minister's defence against "fear-mongering" ignores a brewing macroeconomic storm. Blaming external factors for the crisis involving fuel, fertiliser, and foreign exchange masks systemic vulnerabilities. The rupee plummeting towards the 97-per-dollar mark and foreign portfolio investors dumping $20 billion in domestic assets isn't a cynical narrative; it is a mathematical reality. Artificially propping up the currency is unsustainable. Instead of lecturing the public on austerity, the government must incentivise manufacturing, diversify energy imports, and hike interest rates to check structural inflation before resilience turns to regression.
**Vijaykumar H K,** Raichur

## Iran holds the upper hand

Apropos 'Iran to open Hormuz 30 days after deal: Report' (May 26), the statement underlines a calibrated strategic move by Tehran. Even if an agreement materialises, the delayed reopening reveals that geopolitical and economic uncertainty will persist for months. The Strait of Hormuz remains integral to global energy supplies, and understandably, Iran intends to retain its leverage while testing the response of the US and other major powers.
**P V Prakash,** Mumbai

## Honour the agreement

The controversy involving actor Ranveer Singh's exit from *Don 3*, allegedly causing the producers a loss of Rs 45 crore, highlights the importance of actors honouring signed contracts. If leaving the productions is unavoidable, the issues must be resolved through dialogue. Discipline and professionalism must be non-negotiable for the larger interests of the industry.
**R S Narula,** Patiala

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Tabling of the Uniform Civil Code Bill proves our government's commitment to work for the rights of women belonging to the minority community

**Himanta Biswa Sarma**, Assam CM

Reality is easy. It's deception that's the hard work.

**Lauryn Hill**

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

# From remittances to brain gain

Migration policy must convert talent flows into innovation wins

**CHITRA SARUPARIA**

The *World Migration Report 2026* records that India received nearly $137.7 billion in remittances in 2024, becoming the first country to cross the $100 billion threshold. These flows represent the labour of millions of Indians working across the world – nurses in Dubai, construction workers in Riyadh, engineers in Silicon Valley, and students in Toronto. Migration is deeply embedded in India's economic structure.

For decades, the migration debate in India has been largely framed around remittances, and understandably so. These inflows sustain household incomes, finance education and healthcare, support consumption, and strengthen India's balance of payments. In states such as Kerala, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Rajasthan, migration-linked income has become an important source of economic resilience.

Reducing migration to remittance volumes alone is analytically inadequate. A country aspiring to become a global knowledge economy must confront a harder question: can India continue exporting skilled labour while simultaneously positioning itself as a centre of innovation, research, and advanced technology?

The concern becomes sharper in sectors central to long-term competitiveness – artificial intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and research-intensive higher education. These sectors depend on specialised human capital created through years of public investment in universities and technical institutions. When highly skilled graduates migrate permanently, much of the return on that investment is captured by destination economies rather than India.

The costs extend beyond lost foreign exchange. Persistent high-skilled emigration weakens domestic capacity in medicine, academia, and applied research. Universities struggle to retain distinguished faculty, research ecosystems face talent shortages, and innovation capacity is gradually diluted when entrepreneurs, inventors, and scientists are permanently absorbed into foreign labour markets. The long-term challenge is therefore the erosion of India's domestic innovation ecosystem.

This does not mean migration should be viewed negatively. China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Israel demonstrate that diaspora communities can become engines of technology transfer, venture capital, research collaboration, and industrial upgrading. In these cases, migration generated national economic dynamism because states created institutional mechanisms that transformed mobility into knowledge circulation.

India has moved only partially in this direction. Diaspora engagement remains largely symbolic. A country with a diaspora exceeding 35 million, spread across leading technology hubs, universities, and financial centres, cannot afford to treat its overseas population primarily as a source of remittances and cultural sentiment. What India requires is a strategic shift built around four priorities.

First, India must develop structured diaspora research and innovation networks connecting universities, laboratories, startups, and industries with Indian professionals abroad. Second, India should institutionalise flexible return fellowships and visiting scholar programmes for Indian academics, scientists, and technology professionals working overseas.

Third, India must strengthen its domestic institutions. No meaningful brain gain strategy can succeed unless India invests seriously in its universities, laboratories, and innovation ecosystems. Fourth, India should facilitate professionals working abroad to contribute to Indian institutions, industries, and research agendas.

## Enhancing institutional capabilities

Highly skilled professionals often access global mobility opportunities with relative ease. Low- and semi-skilled workers, however, continue to face recruitment fraud, exploitative contracts, and inadequate legal protection. A migration policy that privileges elite talent mobility while neglecting the vulnerabilities of workers whose remittances sustain millions of households would be economically short-sighted and morally incomplete.

The international migration system that supported India's remittance expansion cannot be assumed to remain stable indefinitely. Immigration restrictions are tightening across North America and Europe, while labour nationalisation policies in the Gulf countries are reducing dependence on migrant workers.

India's migration story has therefore outgrown its traditional frame. It is no longer simply about workers sending money home. It is about how a rising economy positions itself within global networks of talent, technology, and intellectual production. Remittances remain important, but long-term economic strength will increasingly depend on institutional quality, research capacity, and technological capability.

The central question before India is whether it can build the institutional capacity to transform the global mobility of its citizens into enduring national economic and intellectual strength.

*(The writer is an associate professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Economics, Law and Public Policy, National Law University, Jodhpur)*

# When the Vatican voices anxieties of the AI age

SHAROON SUNNY

The Vatican has entered the Artificial Intelligence debate with a certain historical familiarity. In 1891, as factories transformed Europe and industrial capitalism reordered everyday life, Pope Leo XIII responded with *Rerum Novarum*, an encyclical that confronted the social consequences of mechanised labour. More than a century later, Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas* returns to a similar anxiety. This time, the machine is not the factory but the algorithm. The timing of its release is deliberate: the document was signed on the 135th anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*. Unlike many earlier Vatican documents translated from Latin or Italian, *Magnifica Humanitas* is written originally in English and carries a striking structural and argumentative clarity.

The encyclical does not condemn technology. Rather, it argues that technological acceleration does not automatically produce social wisdom. At a moment when governments and technology companies speak confidently about AI-driven futures, *Magnifica Humanitas* pauses to consider a different set of questions: what happens to labour, judgment, care, and even attention when more and more decisions are delegated to systems ordinary people neither understand nor control?

Algorithms already shape what people read, watch, and trust. They influence hiring, insurance, banking, policing, and education. Large technology corporations now exercise forms of influence once associated primarily with states. The encyclical's central concern is that societies may gradually surrender moral and political judgment to systems designed largely around efficiency, prediction, and optimisation.

This concern is particularly relevant in the Global South, where AI is rapidly entering schools, workplaces, hospitals, financial systems, and public administration. Most countries in the Global South are also marked by deep inequalities in access, language, and digital infrastructure. Technologies often arrive carrying the promise that they will solve social problems automatically. Yet the history of technology shows that systems can also inherit and reproduce the inequalities already embedded within society itself.

*Magnifica Humanitas* is especially attentive to the question of who gets excluded from technological futures. The document pays specific attention to women and marginalised communities, arguing that despite greater public language around rights and inclusion, deep inequalities continue to shape everyday life. AI is not positioned to enter neutral social environments. They arrive within societies already marked by disparities of class, gender, language, and access, and they often end up reproducing those inequalities in less visible but more systematic ways. The people most affected by automated systems are frequently those with the least power to question or challenge them.

The encyclical repeatedly turns towards the changing nature of work. Automation is beginning to affect not only industrial labour but also white-collar professions once considered secure. In India's expanding gig economy, many workers already inhabit algorithmically managed worlds in which invisible systems shape wages, visibility, and opportunity. The encyclical repeatedly returns to the question of whether human beings are slowly being reduced to units of productivity within systems whose priorities they do not control.

Some of the document's most compelling reflections emerge in its discussion of education and human relationships, arguing that not everything valuable in life can be measured by efficiency or speed. Teaching, care, friendship, parenting, and democratic discussion are slow, imperfect activities. They require judgment, emotional presence, and forms of attention that cannot easily be automated. Beneath these arguments lies a deeper philosophical distinction. There is caution against treating AI as equivalent to human intelligence. AI systems can process vast amounts of information, imitate conversation, and generate increasingly convincing forms of language and analysis. But they do not experience the world. They do not grow through memory, relationships, grief, responsibility or moral conflict.

Their "learning" is statistical adaptation rather than lived experience. What concerns the Vatican is not merely the rise of intelligent machines, but the possibility that societies may gradually begin redefining human intelligence itself in computational terms.

This becomes especially relevant as AI tools increasingly enter classrooms through automated testing, personalised learning platforms, and digital tutoring systems. Such technologies may assist teachers in important ways. Yet schools are not merely sites for information transfer. They are also places where children learn confidence, empathy, disagreement, and social life itself. The encyclical suggests that an education system organised entirely around optimisation risks confusing learning with data processing.

The Catholic Church itself is hardly free from historical contradiction. Its history includes complicity with colonialism, hierarchy, and institutional violence. Critics will rightly point to the irony of the Vatican warning the world about concentrated power. Yet the significance of *Magnifica Humanitas* lies less in the moral purity of the institution than in the questions the document raises. Institutions with long historical memory sometimes recognise civilisational anxieties earlier than cultures captivated by novelty.

The public debate around AI is still largely conducted in the language of innovation, competition, and inevitability. *Magnifica Humanitas* introduces a different vocabulary into that conversation – labour, vulnerability, dependency, ageing, care, and moral limits. Invoking the Tower of Babel, the encyclical warns against societies that mistake technical capability for wisdom. As AI becomes more deeply woven into everyday life, that distinction may become harder to ignore.

*(The writer is an assistant professor at the School of Arts and Sciences, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru)*

## Thousands who fled Russia after the invasion of Ukraine have built an enclave in Phuket. An air of impermanence hangs over their community

FRANCESCA REGALADO

Patrons at Come Leo Come, a supper club in Bang Tao that features Russian-speaking entertainers. NYT

# Russians thrive in Phuket, but it's no forever home

Ekaterina Mittsel ran through her 6-year-old daughter's schedule as she waited at the school pickup line in Thailand's tropical heat. Mondays are for choir practice, Tuesdays and Thursdays for gymnastics. Wednesdays and Saturdays are for Russian lessons – just in case the family ever decides to return home.

The Mittsels are among the hundreds of thousands of Russians who left the country after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and one of an estimated 30,000 Russian émigrés living on Phuket, a resort island in southern Thailand. Many of them see it as calmer than Bali, cheaper than Dubai, and friendlier than Europe.

"We joke that we meet our friends here more often than we did in Moscow," Mittsel, 36, said during an interview at the family's hillside bungalow, which has a view of Phuket's southern coast.

Signs of Russian influence are everywhere on the island, a popular destination for Russians even before the war: Russian saunas that thrive despite the tropical weather, Russian grocery stores that sell ingredients from home, and daily flights to Phuket by the Russian state airline Aeroflot. Beachside restaurants offer cold borscht, and some Russian pop stars and rappers have added the island to their international tours.

But as Phuket's Russian community has grown, so has local resentment over Russians amassing properties, opening businesses and – critics say – abusing the country's visa policy to work illegally. (The Thai foreign ministry declined to directly answer questions about allegations of visa fraud on the island.)

The resentment has contributed to an air of impermanence that hangs over Phuket's Russian community. Russians who have residence visas, including the Mittsels, said in interviews that they don't see the island as a forever home. Russians on shorter-term stays face pressure from a government crackdown on tourist visas.

On Tuesday, the Thai government halved its tourist visa exemption period from 60 days to 30 days. That could affect many of the roughly 15,000 Russians that the Russian consulate in Phuket says live on the island without long-term visas. Some are young men who left Russia to flee conscription.

### Uncertainty is real

Evgenii, a 39-year-old engineer who asked that his surname not be published for fear of reprisal, said he had left Russia in 2022 and moved around Europe before settling in Phuket. He worked at a real estate agency for about six months, but had to resign to leave the country temporarily to reset his visa exemption, which was expiring. "I'm good at it," he said, referring to his real estate work. "But I'm always thinking about hopping the border."

Some of the young Russians who remain in Phuket attend an Orthodox church service on Sundays, staying afterward for a lunch of rice and clam soup. One man there said he was training in one of the island's Muay Thai gyms through a 90-day visa that the government offers to amateur fighters.

As their visa exemptions expire, many Russians pay $150 to be driven across the border and back to restart the clock on their stays – a hefty recurring fee for young men scraping by on irregular work. Evgenii said he was going to Vietnam to consider his options for staying in Thailand. "I'll either return to Phuket with a visa or pick up my things and move on," he said.

Thaneth Tantipiriyakit, the president of a provincial tourism association that serves businesses in Phuket, said it had received complaints about the visa-free policy from Thai people in Phuket.

"Whenever there's a foreigner behaving badly, they blame the free visa," he said, adding that Russians became a conspicuous target partly because they are the largest group of tourists on the island. Similar resentment has sprung up in Bali, the Indonesian island that had once welcomed Russians and Ukrainians who fled the war.

### New clubs and rising condos

In Phuket, some local residents also blame Russians for rising property prices that have made housing unaffordable for many Thai people.

The centre of Russian society in Phuket, Bang Tao, is nicknamed Thai Rublyovka, after Moscow's most exclusive neighborhood. Four years ago, it was empty beachside land. Now it has resorts, commercial strips, gated villas, and luxury condominiums.

Russian buyers accounted for more than half of property sales in Phuket in the first year of the war in Ukraine, according to Thailand's Real Estate Information Centre, a government research agency. The price of land on the island rose by at least 20% that year, the agency said.

Maksim Shatilov, who is from St. Petersburg and owns a real estate brokerage in Phuket that serves Russian families, has seen his business boom in the past four years. "After the war started, there weren't many places where you could feel free to be a Russian," he said.

Russian money was on display on a recent evening at Come Leo Come, a Russian-style supper club in Bang Tao that is owned by a Ukrainian businessman. Guests pulled up in sports cars, and high heels were the unspoken dress code for women.

In the dimly lit and velvet-walled dining room, Russian-speaking waiters offered shots of premium tequila and vodka as well as platters of sashimi and caviar, while Thai staff worked in the back of the house. Dancers brandished champagne sparklers as two saxophonists played on top of the bar.

Despite making his fortune in Phuket, Shatilov, 31, said it was not his forever home. But he and his wife, Alona Myronenko, cannot return to Russia, in part because she is a Ukrainian citizen. "Now the place I really want to travel to is Moscow," he said, "but I don't feel safe."

Mittsel said her family also feels the pull of home. They left Russia in 2022 because her husband, a software engineer at an American technology company, could not be paid locally when US sanctions blocked several Russian banks from the SWIFT payment system.

After they settled on Phuket – the setting for the latest season of *The White Lotus* – they were joined by other Russian friends seeking stability for their young families.

At the end of each school year, the Mittsels consider moving back to Russia instead of renewing their visas. They visit home every summer to see their parents, but their daughter longs to skate on ice and play in the snow. Last year, Mittsel brought her to a winter carnival at a mall in Bangkok, the Thai capital, to enjoy the fake snow.

So far, they have decided to stay, out of concern that she would struggle to adjust to Russian schools.

Mittsel said she misses Moscow's opera, ballet, and music scene. But she doesn't miss clubbing. That's why she and her husband rarely make the long drive from their home on the island's southern peak to Bang Tao's exclusive clubs.

"I don't have those kinds of outfits," she said. "I left them in Russia, like, on purpose."

**The New York Times**

# Blue Moon: Science in tradition

ARVIND PARANJPYE

The full moon on May 31 will be called a 'Blue Moon'. When two full moons occur within the same calendar month, the second full moon is popularly known as a Blue Moon. Despite its name, this Moon neither appears blue nor is it connected to the expression "once in a blue moon," a phrase that entered the English language in the 17th or 18th century to describe something rare.

The term Blue Moon, in its astronomical sense, does not originate from classical Latin or traditional British English. Instead, it developed in North America in connection with seasonal cycles and agricultural practices.

In Europe and North America, the year is traditionally divided into four seasons – spring, summer, autumn, and winter – each lasting about three months. Normally, there are twelve full moons in a year, roughly one occurring every month. Farmers gave each full moon a distinct name associated with seasonal activities or natural events. Thus, the April full moon is often called the Pink Moon, the May full moon the Flower Moon, and the June full moon the Strawberry Moon, marking the season when strawberries ripen.

However, the lunar cycle does not fit perfectly into the solar calendar. One lunar month lasts approximately 29.531 days, while the solar year is 365.2422 days long. This means that a year contains about 12.37 lunar months. As a result, the "extra" fraction accumulates over time, and occasionally a year contains 13 full moons instead of the usual 12.

When this happens, one season ends up with four full moons instead of the normal three. Traditionally, in such a season, the third full moon was called the Blue Moon, while the fourth retained its customary seasonal name. This was the original meaning of the term.

The modern definition of a Blue Moon as the second full moon in a calendar month arose from a misunderstanding. In March 1946, amateur astronomer and science writer James Hugh Pruett published an article in *Sky & Telescope* magazine, in which he mistakenly described the Blue Moon as the second full moon in a month. Although technically incorrect according to the older tradition, this simpler definition became widely popular.

Public awareness of the term grew significantly after it was mentioned during the popular radio programme StarDate on January 31, 1980. Since then, science communicators and amateur astronomers have enthusiastically used the Blue Moon phenomenon to encourage public interest in astronomy.

Scientifically, a Blue Moon is simply the result of the mismatch between the lunar cycle and the calendar month. This creates several interesting peculiarities.

Most Blue Moons occur in months that have 31 days. The last Blue Moon in a 30-day month occurred on June 30, 2007, while the next such event will occur on September 30, 2050.

February can never have a Blue Moon because even in a leap year, the month has only 29 days – shorter than a complete lunar cycle. Interestingly, if a Blue Moon occurs on January 31, the next full moon may fall on March 1 or 2, allowing March itself to have a second full moon and therefore another Blue Moon.

Blue Moons are also sensitive to time zones. The Blue Moon of January 31, 1980, for example, was visible as a January Blue Moon mainly in North America. In many other parts of the world, the date had already advanced to February 1.

Similarly, when much of the world observed a Blue Moon on August 31, 2012, it was already September 1 in New Zealand. As a result, observers there experienced their Blue Moon on September 30 instead.

Although a Blue Moon does not normally appear blue, there have been rare occasions when the Moon acquired a bluish tint. This can happen when volcanic ash or smoke particles from large forest fires scatter red light in the atmosphere, allowing more blue light to pass through.

So, if weather conditions permit, do take a moment to observe the Blue Moon on May 31 this year. Most likely, the Moon rising near the horizon will appear reddish or golden rather than blue. Still, the occasion remains a fascinating reminder of the subtle interplay between celestial motions and the calendars by which we measure time.

*(The writer is Director, Nehru Planetarium, Nehru Centre, Mumbai)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976**

### Constitution must meet changing needs: Urs

Bangalore, May 26
The vital need to make the Constitution an instrument to meet the aspirations and wishes of the people in a changing society was under scored by Chief Minister Devaraj Urs here today. The Chief Minister declared that the Constitution framed 25 years ago need not be considered sacrosanct. The world was undergoing rapid changes and unless the Constitution was so amended as to meet these changes, there was bound to be unrest and strife.

**25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001**

### 24-hour helpline for civic problems

Bangalore, May 26
Come July 15 and Bangalore will become the first city in the nation to have a dedicated round-the-clock citizen grievance call centre backed by an interactive voice response (IVR) system to redress civic problems like garbage, debris accumulation, drainage clogging, poster menace and dead animals. The Swaccha Bangalore Helpline is being launched by the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike in association with the Bangalore Agenda Task Force.

## OASIS | CHANDER GUPTA

# The wisdom of getting along with others

Every human being is born as and is a separate, independent, and unique entity. Individuality is the only divine division of the human race. Notwithstanding various groups that individuals are part of – cohorts such as family, caste, religion, race, nationality, etc. – the individuality of a person is the primary identity. No two individuals are ever identical in all aspects.

Look at the odds. An individual has to deal with the rest of the world. That is an enormous challenge for any individual. Practically, you do not have to deal with the rest of the population on planet Earth. The people you generally deal with are family members, friends, relatives, colleagues, neighbours, and other acquaintances. Additionally, there are transactional interactions with employees of government and commercial establishments etc.

We come across people who are richer than us, stronger than us, more powerful than us. We should carry ourselves with dignity and consistency while dealing with people across the spectrum.

Proper communication is the key to success in navigating the complex world of varied emotions that people you come across show. Listening with empathy lets you discern the deeper emotions and sentiments, which is crucial for maintaining good relationships. The quality of relationships defines the quality of life.

An individual does, on many occasions, have quarrels and animosity with other members of the family, of the religion, of the nationality and so on. It is not that the people of the same nationality or religion are always one and united. Rather, in our daily lives we are more at odds with persons belonging to our groups, be it at home or at the office or in the neighbourhood. The standoff is usually with persons who we happen to be in touch with.

No human being is the shadow of another human being. No individual is a replica of the other. Each one of us is on our own. The reality that an individual must contend with and deal with the rest of the world for survival is, on the one hand, testimony to the innate strength of a human being but, on the other, also the main cause of stress and strife. The wisdom lies in avoiding dispute and acrimony while dealing with the rest of the world. Cultivate harmony and camaraderie to make the best of the rest of the world.

# Siddu to step down as Congress finally says time's up

Siddaramaiah, From Page 1

According to sources, Rahul Gandhi offered Siddaramaiah an honourable exit, including the post of Karnataka Congress unit president with his son Yathindra inducted as a Cabinet minister.

Another option discussed was sending him to the Rajya Sabha and appointing him as Leader of Opposition in the Upper House.

Siddaramaiah, however, remained non-committal about transitioning to national politics. Taking the Rajya Sabha seat will not only set the stage for Siddaramaiah's "graceful" exit, but is seen as a win-win for both the leader and the party.

As the Congress' tallest OBC leader, he fits its national OBC pitch. Karnataka under Siddaramaiah was the Congress test case to highlight the Centre's "step-motherly" treatment.

His attacks on the Centre over tax devolution, Hindi imposition, NEP and fuel price hike make him a ready weapon against BJP in Delhi. Crucially, his shift removes a parallel power centre in Karnataka, clearing space for Shivakumar. Siddaramaiah has refused a Delhi post earlier.

This time, he might consider the option but not before bargaining for "appropriate" posts for his loyalist MLAs and MLC son Dr Yathindra. A "compromise formula" could see Shivakumar sharing power with more than one Deputy CM, including Yathindra.

But with the 2028 polls under two years away, the high command wants a smooth handover to avoid Ahinda bloc backlash, especially from Kurubas. Congress still remembers the Lingayat alienation after Veerendra Patil's ouster and BJP's 2023 rout after Yediyurappa's exit.

In his interactions, the chief minister reportedly questioned the need for his resignation, pointing out that there were no major complaints against his government, sources said.

He highlighted that the state government was functioning smoothly, with the party recently winning two bypolls and no visible anti-incumbency, sources said.

Siddaramaiah assured the leadership that the Congress would secure maximum seats in the upcoming gram panchayat, zilla panchayat, and taluk panchayat polls. Rahul Gandhi reportedly told Siddaramaiah that he had already been given an eight-year term as chief minister, besides earlier roles as Leader of Opposition.

Rahul emphasised that a leadership change was necessary in the interest of both the organisation and the government, keeping the 2028 Assembly polls in mind. The marathon discussions took place at the Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan.

### Six-hour meeting

Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi, along with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal, and AICC General Secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala, held a over six-hour meeting with both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

This was followed by a separate one-on-one meeting between Rahul and Siddaramaiah. Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi was also consulted.

Later, AICC General Secretary Venugopal, flanked by Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, told the media that the discussions were solely focused on candidate selection for the forthcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections.

Rahul held separate meetings with the CM and Dy CM. Later he met the two leaders together.

"The entire discussion was only concentrated on the coming Rajya Sabha elections and Council elections in Karnataka. Whatever speculation you people are doing... that is only speculation... no reality at all," Venugopal said.

The party has so far refrained from issuing any statement confirming that Siddaramaiah will continue as chief minister. Sources said the leadership is aware that Siddaramaiah enjoys the support of a majority of Congress MLAs and is the party's only OBC chief minister at present. Any transition, they added, will have to be handled carefully to accord him due respect and prevent any rebellion.

# 'Reverse exodus' at Bengal border amid deportation drive

## Renewed rush after CM's new policy against infiltrators

KOLKATA, PTI

West Bengal's BJP government's decision to launch district-level holding centres for suspected illegal immigrants appears to have triggered a fresh "reverse exodus" through the international border, with scores of alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators gathering at the Hakimpur checkpoint in North 24 Parganas seeking to return home.

The renewed rush comes days after Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced that West Bengal would aggressively implement a "detect, delete and deport" policy against infiltrators.

Large bags, rolled-up blankets and plastic sheets had returned to the Hakimpur border crossing on Tuesday, reviving a scene that had briefly unsettled West Bengal's political landscape last winter during the SIR exercise.

Men, women and children sat in clusters under makeshift covers, waiting for their names to be called and for permission to cross over into Bangladesh.

### 'Detect, delete and deport' drive

The "reverse exodus" of undocumented migrants, first witnessed during the voter roll Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in November last year, appears to have resurfaced after the state's newly installed BJP government initiated its "detect, delete and deport" drive.

At Hakimpur in North 24 Parganas' Basirhat subdivision, over 100 alleged Bangladeshi immigrants gathered near the BSF checkpoint over the last two days, carrying trolleys, utensils and bundles—reminders of lives packed in haste and uncertainty.

A deportation centre set up at Padma Bhavan Lalgola, in West Bengal's Murshidabad district. PTI

Some had reportedly lived for years in places such as Dum Dum, New Town and Dankuni, working as masons, labourers and domestic help. "If the government does not allow us to stay, what option do we have except returning?" one man waiting near the checkpoint said. "This reverse exodus started in November last year. Early this year, the numbers had gone down, but over the last two days they have risen significantly. We are following necessary procedures and are in touch with our counterparts in Bangladesh," a senior BSF official said.

BSF personnel indicated that many arriving at Hakimpur were voluntarily approaching authorities seeking repatriation.

Simultaneously, the administration has begun setting up holding centres in districts to temporarily house suspected Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingyas pending verification and deportation proceedings.

Malda became the first district where such a facility became operational, housing nine suspected Bangladeshi nationals.

In West Bengal's politics, however, migration figures often carry meanings larger than administrative statistics.

The SIR exercise had triggered one of the sharpest political confrontations during the previous regime's final months. The then-opposition BJP argued that voter verification exposed deeper demographic concerns, while the Trinamool Congress dismissed allegations of infiltration and accused the exercise of targeting vulnerable communities.

# Quad to invest $20 bn towards critical minerals supply chains

Critical minerals, From Page 1

This includes mining, processing, recycling and related investment, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said as he and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio signed the bilateral pact. "It will strengthen resilience and diversified supply chains, help us to collaborate and finance, and with the effective management of critical minerals and rare earths," he said.

The vibrant innovation economies such as India and the US cannot afford to leave the foundational materials of key industries "vulnerable to single-source monopolies" that could deny the supply of critical minerals, "not just in a time of conflict, but as a leverage point contrary to sovereign national interests", said Rubio. New Delhi accepted an invitation from Washington earlier this year to join Pax Silica – a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals and energy inputs to advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, AI development, and logistics.

China's dominance of critical minerals and rare earths has become a growing concern for major economies. While it accounts for about 60% of the global rare-earth production, China controls nearly 85-90% of processing and refining capacity for many critical minerals, giving it an outsized role in supply chains that support semiconductors, electric vehicles, batteries, wind turbines, telecommunications equipment and advanced defence systems. The export restrictions imposed by the Chinese Government on gallium, germanium, antimony and several rare-earth elements have heightened fears of supply disruptions and economic coercion. The US has been heavily dependent on China for several strategic minerals and heavy rare earths used in defence and clean-energy technologies.

India, despite possessing sizeable reserves, imports about 90% of its rare-earth magnets from China because of limited domestic processing and manufacturing capacity. The Quad nations agreed to identify and support critical-mineral projects linked to member countries or markets, including through export credit agencies, development finance institutions and private investment.

They will deploy tools such as loans, guarantees, insurance, subsidies and commercial agreements, while exploring new mechanisms to mobilise capital and strengthen regional critical-mineral supply chains. "The Quad is today taking forward a number of new initiatives, an energy security initiative, one of the – and of course our continued work on critical minerals, because we understand that secure and reliable supply chains are a precondition to economic and strategic stability," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said after the meeting in New Delhi.

"We shared deep concern over the export restrictions of critical minerals and others," said Toshimitsu Motegi, the foreign minister of Japan.

# Teenage pregnancies down 70% in state since 2020-21

Teen pregnancies, From Page 1

However, cases began to fall in 2023-2024 with 8,632 before declining further to 4,496 in 2024-2025 and 3,271 in 2025-26.

The teenage pregnancy audit is conducted every year from April to March. It records pregnancies under 18 years of age.

To further reduce teenage pregnancies, the government is actively suggesting medical termination within the legal limits to help girls with unwanted pregnancies.

"We have been tracking the issue from the village level, auditing cases and categorising them into preventable and non-preventable cases. While in some cases it is a lack of awareness, in other cases it is the cultural tradition to marry early, which leads to conception," Dr Indumati Kamashetty, Deputy Director of Rural Child Health, Department of Health and Family Welfare, told *DH*. Dr Sneha C V, Director of Integrated Child Protection Scheme, said, "Fifty percent of cases we witness are elopement cases, so we are concentrating on hostels and schools."

"We have planned plays and skits for adolescent girls to make them understand the consequences and importance of education and careers," she added.

The department also provides vocational training for girls to help them upskill. The Women and Child Welfare Department also plays a role in increasing awareness, especially in hostels and schools, to reduce teen pregnancies. It has introduced standard operating procedures to handle cases anonymously.

Speaking about the cases in Bengaluru, Dr Savitha C, Medical Superintendent, Vanivilas Hospital, said, "Migrant population has driven up the cases in Bengaluru. We see a large number of cases from other states and Nepal and many of them are married as well. Even if the crime has happened elsewhere, if delivery happens here, it is counted as a case here."

She noted that numerous women, including those married, choose adoption. "We inform the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and they are taken to the orphanages," she added.

# Environmental governance must not remain a reactive exercise: Supreme Court

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday underscored that environmental governance cannot be limited to reactive measures triggered only by judicial intervention or the fear of personal liability.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed while issuing a series of directives to strengthen enforcement against rampant illegal sand mining in and around the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, a critical protected area spanning Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

The court described the issues as far from isolated regulatory lapses, pointing instead to "continuing ecological destruction", degradation of protected wildlife habitats, organised illegal mining, damage to public infrastructure, and a serious erosion of the rule of law in ecologically sensitive zones.

"Environmental governance cannot be reduced to a reactive exercise undertaken only after repeated judicial intervention or upon threat of personal accountability before constitutional courts," the bench observed.

The court emphasised that Articles 21, 48A, and 51A(g) of the Constitution impose a continuing duty on the State and its agencies to anticipate environmental harm, prevent degradation, and safeguard fragile ecosystems through proactive governance and strict enforcement.

The bench reviewed compliance affidavits filed by the three states and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

### Lack of concrete steps

While noting some administrative progress and better coordination compared to previous hearings, the court expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of concrete steps to curb the use of unregistered and unidentified vehicles in illegal mining and transportation.

The affidavits, the court said, also failed to outline an effective enforcement framework to tackle such violations.

Exercising its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, the SC directed the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh to immediately augment field-level enforcement in their forest departments by filling vacant posts of forest guards and other frontline staff, and establish and operationalise surveillance and monitoring infrastructure, including CCTV systems, integrated monitoring mechanisms, control centres, and allied technology.

The court also ordered for the fast-tracking of all substantial surveillance measures on a "war footing", with implementation targeted within six months.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on July 22.

The National Chambal Sanctuary, spread over 5,400 sq km, is a tri-state protected area along the Chambal River. It is a vital habitat for the endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle, and the Ganges River Dolphin. The sanctuary was first notified in Madhya Pradesh in 1978 and is now jointly administered by the three states.

# Elephant calf found dead

**CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS:** A two-year-old female elephant calf was found dead at Punajanur wildlife range, under Bandipur Tiger Reserve, in the district.

The Forest Department personnel on patrol found the carcass of the elephant calf near Marlupala, Bedaguli division. Prime facie, it looks like the jumbo calf had died of illness. The samples and viscera have been sent to the lab for testing.

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the reputed bidders for the following works. **1) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT4184 Dtd 21.05.2026:** RTPS - Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of chlorine dioxide generator of capacity 5.0kg/hr by using HCL and sodium chlorite with dosing pumps and all fittings for clarifier-1 and 10kg/hr by using HCL and sodium chlorite with dosing pumps and all fittings for clarifier-3. EMD: **Rs. 66,080/- 2) No. KPCL/2026-27/PM/WORK_INDENT4188 Dtd 22.05.2026:** Supply, Replacement and modification of Hydraulic pipes, fittings, Hoses and clamps of Wagon Tippler-4&5 in CHP-2, RTPS. Approx. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 66,50,000/-** EMD: **Rs. 1,33,000/-** Last date for submission of tender : *(for Sl. No. 1):* **06.06.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** *(for Sl. No. 2):* **08.06.2026 upto 17:30 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from *(for Sl. No. 1):* **Executive Engineer(CAM)-2,** Mobile: 9448248068 & *(for Sl. No. 2):* **Executive Engineer (CHP)M-2,** Mobile: 9448290758, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹಿರೇಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ
ತಾ/ಜಿ:ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ:ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ e-mail: ka.hirebagewadi.tp@gmail.com
ph No.0831-2001449 PincodeNo.591109
ಕ್ರಸಂ/ಪಪಂ/ಹಿರೇಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:22/05/2026

**ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ನೋಟಿಸ್)**

ಯಾವತ್ತು ಹಿರೇಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರೇಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿದವರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ಫಲಕ ಮಾಲಿಕರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲವು ಇತರೆ ಕಾನೂನು(ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಅಧ್ಯಿನಿಯಮ 2026ರ ಪ್ರಕರಣ 135ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಯುಕ್ತನ ಲಿಖಿತ ಅನುಮತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ ಜಾಹಿರಾತುಗಳ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾರಣ ಈ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಮಟ್ಟಿದ 7 (ಏಳು) ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿರೇಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾದ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಜಾಹಿರಾತಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿತ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಜಾಹಿರಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕೃತಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲವು ಇತರೆ ಕಾನೂನು(ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2026ರ ಪ್ರಕರಣ 138ರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಜಾಹಿರಾತನ್ನು ತೆರುವುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿದ ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಲಾವುದು ತಿಳಿಯಿರಿ,

ಸಹಿ/–ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಹಿರೇಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-312/KSMCA/2026-27

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 952/GADAG/EE(E)/2026-27/937 Date: 25.05.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

**KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Operation Division, Gadag: 1)** Supplying of 33kV Lightening Arrester at 110kV Station Konnur **2)** Supplying of 03 No's of 11kV Current Transformers for 11kV Bank & feeder at 110kV S/s Dambal **3)** Supplying of Stationeries to various sub-station in Operation Division Gadag. **4)** Providing and Fixing of Auxiliary Relays to Power Transformer at 110kV S/s Bellatti **5)** Providing and Fixing of Multi Functional Meters at 110kV S/s Gadag **6)** Replacement of Faulty Relays at 110kV S/s Shingtaluru. **7)** Printing of Single Line Diagram, Transformer details & Grid Map in foam sheet

Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from **27.05.2026 at 10:00 Hrs. onwards.** Due date: **10.06.2026 at 04:00 pm.**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),**
**Operation Division, KPTCL, Bapuji Nagar, Gadag**

**Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited**
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
No: SEE(Projects)/HSN/EE(O)/DCA/AEE-1/HNPS-18/2026-27/852-54
Date: 26.05.2026

KPTCL, Transmission (Projects) Circle, Hassan, invites bids on Electronic mode for conducting 220 & 66KV line Preliminary and Detailed Survey using Modern Survey techniques as follows against the following Bid Enquiry number.

**1)KPTCL/2026-27/SE2381** For Conducting Detailed Survey using Modern Survey Techniques for Construction of Incoming 220kV Lines on 220/110KV MC/DC Towers for a distance of approximately 28 Kms and 66 kV Outgoing lines on 110KV MC/DC Towers approximate 39kms (Including Strengthening of existing 66KV Lines) to the proposed 2x150 MVA, 220/66kV R/s and 1x12.5 MVA 66/11 kV S/s at Allapatna (Kaniyaru) village in Arakalgudu Taluk, Hassan District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL Website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.05.2026.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elec.,),**
**Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan,**
**2nd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan.**

**GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY**
**Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer,**
**Greater Bengaluru Authority, N.R. Square, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru - 560002.**

**No: DCF/PR/234/2026-27** **Date: 26-05-2026**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the **Executive Engineer, Market Division, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru** has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing **inside the Premises of the existing HSR Layout BDA Complex, Bengaluru for Redevelopment and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at HSR Layout on PPP Model.** The details are given below:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Name of the Project** | Redevelopment and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at HSR Layout on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. | | | |
| **Name of the Agency** | The Executive Engineer, Market Division, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru. | | | |
| **Purpose for Removal of Trees** | The trees are standing inside the premises of the existing HSR Layout BDA Complex, Bengaluru and coming within the proposed project area for the Redevelopment and Construction of BDA Shopping Complex at HSR Layout on PPP Model | | | |
| **Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings** | **Boundary** | **Latitude (N)** | **Longitude (E)** | **Location** |
| | 1 | 12° 91' 30.48" | 77° 63' 79.43" | Tree are standing inside the premises of the existing HSR Layout BDA Complex, HSR Layout, Bengaluru. |
| | 2 | 12° 91' 30.54" | 77° 63' 74.79" | |
| | 3 | 12° 91' 44.35" | 77° 63' 69.73" | |
| | 4 | 12° 91' 44.42" | 77° 63' 78.90" | |
| **Enumeration of Trees** • Total no. of trees standing in the project area | 184 Nos. (Annexure-1) | | Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of BBMP for information to all **(www.bbmp.gov.in)** | |
| **Mode of Communication of Comments** *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)* | **Address: a)** The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. E-mail ID: **dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** **b)** The Executive Engineer, BDA, Bengaluru. E-mail ID: **bdaeemarkets@gmail.com** * * A copy of the comments communicated directly to the Executive Engineer, BDA, Bengaluru, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer / DCF, GBA | | | |
| **Deadline for filing Objections** | Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notification in Newspapers * **Objections / Comments / Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project.** | | | |

In view of the above, the suggestions / objections / comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

**Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests,**
**GBA, Bengaluru.**

# Tenders for elephant sanctuary soon, says Khandre

**HASSAN, DHNS:** Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that directions have been issued to commence tender process for setting up elephant sanctuary on 2,000 hectares of land.

"Hundreds of elephants are outside the forest cover in Hassan, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts, destroying crops and endangering human lives. Hence, an elephant sanctuary is being established. The chief conservator of forest and chief wildlife warden have submitted a proposal to the government and tenders will be invited soon," he said. To a query about a zoo in Hassan, he said there is no proposal before government for a new zoological garden in Hassan.

## One more rebel MLA resigns to join TVK, 6 return to AIADMK

**CHENNAI, DHNS:** The churning within AIADMK continued on Tuesday with one rebel MLA joining the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), taking the count to four, even as six rebel MLAs returned to the parent party led by Edappadi K Palaniswami.

The development came even as TVK's new allies — such as the Congress, CPM and VCK—red-flagged AIADMK MLAs resigning from the party and their membership and joining the ruling party.

"It does not bode well for the future of TVK," VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan said, while Congress MP S Jothimani questioned the need for inducting AIADMK MLAs into the party when the TVK government enjoys majority in the House.

While taking objection to the development, Thirumavalavan clarified that his party will continue to support the TVK government.

Ambasamudram MLA Isakki Subbaiah resigned on Tuesday, taking the number to four. Speaker JCD Prabhakar accepted his resignation and notified the same in the gazette.

Meanwhile, AIADMK leader Agri S S Krishnamurthy met Prabhakar and asked him not to accept the resignations of the MLAs since the party has submitted a petition action under the anti-defection law against them.

## Akhilesh targets Yogi govt over fake caste-based encounters in UP

**LUCKNOW, DHNS:** Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday claimed that the UP government is carrying out 'fake encounters' based on 'caste' to 'assert' its authority.

Speaking to reporters here, Akhilesh, a day after the killing of one Ravi Yadav, who was wanted in connection with a murder case and carried a cash reward of Rs one lakh on his head, in an alleged encounter with the police in Jaunpur district, said that his team conducted an analysis of the encounters during the BJP regime and found that members of some specific communities had been the target.

He claimed that Muslims topped the list of encounters, followed by the members of the Brahmin community, who occupied the second spot. Scheduled Caste and Yadav communities take the third spot, he added.

He said that 'fake encounters' were the 'biggest issue' in the state today.

**Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal (L) greets former BJD lawmaker Debashish Samantaray after the latter joined the saffron party in New Delhi on Tuesday.** PTI

# Congress top brass asserts control after Kerala, Tamil Nadu gains

### High command takes issues head-on, as seen in talks on Karnataka leadership tussle

**ANALYSIS**

**SHEMIN JOY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Finding new rigour after recent advances in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the Congress high command is asserting itself to erase perceptions of weakness by directing state units on vexatious issues such as alliance choices and chief minister selection.

The speed with which it delinked itself from the DMK-led alliance to join hands with the TVK — returning to government in Tamil Nadu after 59 years — and the manner in which it chose a new Kerala chief minister indicated that the high command, particularly Rahul Gandhi, is taking issues head-on.

The latest item on this list was a Tuesday meeting in Delhi concerning the leadership tussle in Karnataka. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar were called to Delhi for what Congress leadership claimed was a discussion on upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections.

**Amid the power struggle in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar were summoned to Delhi on Tuesday.** PTI FILE PHOTO

The optics were interesting as party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul and general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Surjewala held discussions and made the two Karnataka leaders wait for their turn to speak to the top leadership.

**NEW TEMPLATE**

- Rahul, Kharge steer key decisions on alliances and chief ministers
- Central leadership sets template for state units
- The mantra is united fight during polls, popular leader gets CM post
- Leadership to step in when states falter

After almost six hours of discussions, Venugopal issued a brief statement to the media, with both the claimant and incumbent by his side.

The leadership appears to have adopted what Rahul told Kerala chief ministerial aspirants Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala — "relax, we will take a decision soon" — as its mantra. Earlier, talks on Karnataka were deferred until after the Kerala polls.

Rahul, who did not bat an eyelid in attacking I.N.D.I.A allies during the campaign, appears to be pushing organisational decisions in the party immediately after the elections. This was evident in the decision to back the TVK, a move he had deferred following opposition from Kharge and others.

On choosing the Kerala CM, Rahul and Kharge widened the scope of deliberations to include senior state leaders amid competing claims, including from Rahul's close aide Venugopal, but finally settled on Satheesan.

The approach to these three situations provides a template that gives primacy to the central leadership's decisions. On alliances, states are given manoeuvring space only up to a point, with the high command stepping in if their stance goes wrong.

For individual leaders, however, the signal is clear — first fight polls unitedly, and anyone can become chief minister if they remain popular, as seen in Kerala. The message extends to leaders in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, where the party is in contention for power in the next poll.

# Modi govt sets up high-level panel on demographic changes

### Five-member committee to study 'unnatural' shifts

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Narendra Modi government on Tuesday set up the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC) headed by Justice (retired) Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar to undertake a "scientific study" of demographic shifts arising from illegal immigration, irregular population mobility and administrative laxity, and to recommend appropriate measures to address them.

The panel, as per an eight-point Terms of Reference, is tasked with undertaking an "extensive consideration of the challenges arising from demographic changes, including due to illegal immigration", and analysing "structural population changes at the level of religious or social communities, especially those diverging from uniform trends".

The five-member committee has a one-year deadline to submit the report. The other members are retired IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, former IPS officer Balaji Srivastava, economist Shamika Ravi, Census Commissioner and Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, who will serve as Member Secretary.

A workpaper by a team led by Ravi, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), had triggered controversy during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections over its findings on the declining share of the Hindu population and the rising Muslim share.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEE**

- Assess demographic challenges, including those linked to illegal immigration
- Study causes such as variations in fertility, cross-border movement, socio-environmental factors
- Identify factors behind changes like illegal immigration and planned migration
- Propose policy framework to improve Centre-state coordination on illegal immigration and demographic imbalance
- Recommend systems for fair, time-bound identification, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants
- Suggest mechanisms to strengthen border management, population stabilisation
- Analyse changes at religious or social level, diverging from uniform trends
- Recommend steps to address challenges from demographic shifts

#### Serious issue: Shah

Announcing the setting up of the committee, Home Minister Amit Shah said demographic change is a "serious issue connected not only with our sovereignty, but also with national security, law and order, major changes in the social structure, and the protection of tribal society".

Modi, in his Independence Day speech in August 2025, had announced plans to set up the panel.

Shah said the committee would conduct a comprehensive assessment of demographic changes occurring across India due to "illegal immigration" and "other unnatural causes", analyse patterns of "abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities" and present a planned and time-bound solution.

A gazette notification said demographic changes have been observed in certain regions of the country, which are "not attributable to normal fertility or mortality trends" but are instead emerging due to "external abnormal factors such as illegal immigration, irregular population mobility, and administrative laxity", leading to "extensive challenges".

Although these changes are "most visibly concentrated in border districts", it said their impact has "extended beyond those areas, now affecting urban centres, industrial corridors, tribal regions, and other socially and economically sensitive areas", impacting public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution, and social cohesion.

Explaining the need for a scientific study into the nature, causes and consequences of demographic changes across the country, and for recommending appropriate policy, administrative and legal measures, it said the existing institutional framework is not adequately equipped to carry out coordinated, evidence-based and time-bound evaluation or response to such shifts.

## 'Unwarranted': India rejects China-Pak references to J&K

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** India on Tuesday categorically rejected "unwarranted references" to its Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan.

**Randhir Jaiswal**

The joint statement was issued after Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, in Beijing on Monday.

Xi's meeting with Sharif and Munir saw both sides reaffirming "the importance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and resolving all outstanding disputes through dialogue and diplomacy", according to the joint statement issued by the governments in Beijing and Islamabad, making an indirect reference to the dispute over J&K between the two South Asian neighbours.

The two sides opposed "any unilateral actions", apparently referring to the August 5, 2019, move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to strip J&K of its special status and reorganise the erstwhile state into two union territories.

Reacting to this statement, the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday sent out a strong message, saying no country has the "locus standi to comment" on J&K.

"India categorically rejects unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir... The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has the locus standi to comment on the same," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

The joint statement also referred to the upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

New Delhi opposed the CPEC 1.0 as it violated the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of India.

"As regards the so-called CPEC projects... we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories," Jaiswal said.

# Quad plan to launch joint maritime surveillance in Indo-Pacific irks China

**ANIRBAN BHAUMIK**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India on Tuesday joined Japan, Australia and the US to add to the military heft of the Quad, launching maritime surveillance collaboration and expanding maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region – sending a message to China, which was quick to denounce the move.

The four nations subtly took a dig at China for its expansionist moves in the East China Sea and the South China Sea.

"The maritime domain has seen a steady expansion of collaboration, including surveillance and domain awareness, logistics network, undersea cables, training, capacity building and HADR (humanitarian aid and disaster relief) activities," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said after hosting a meeting of his counterparts — Penny Wong of Australia, Toshimitsu Motegi of Japan and Marco Rubio of the US — in New Delhi.

**(From right) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting.** PTI

"We will be continuing to deepen these areas in the times ahead," he added.

A joint statement noted that the Quad partners launched the first-ever Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration initiative to enhance information sharing and maritime domain awareness capacity, with an initial focus on the Indian Ocean region.

The move came in the wake of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy's increasing forays into the region.

#### 'Serious concern'

The Quad foreign ministers expressed "serious concern" over the situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, tacitly hitting out at China for its military muscle flexing in the maritime hotspots in the Indo-Pacific region. They reaffirmed that maritime disputes must be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law.

The Quad also announced support to develop port infrastructure in Fiji. The island nation in the South Pacific Ocean grew dependent on China's Belt and Road Initiative over the past few years.

"We are focusing on what more we can do to assure a transparent, more secure maritime domain in the Indo-Pacific," said Wong.

#### China reacts

Beijing reacted sharply to the move to add fresh momentum to the Quad. "China has stated its position on Quad on multiple occasions," Mao Ning, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of China, told journalists when asked to comment on the new measures by the bloc.

"Cooperation between countries should be conducive to regional peace, stability and prosperity, and not target any third party. We oppose forming exclusive groupings or engaging in bloc confrontation," she added.

## Pradhan meets banks to overhaul CBSE payment system

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday met senior officials of four major public sector banks — State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank and Indian Bank — to discuss the overhaul of the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) payment gateway system.

A release from the Ministry of Education said Pradhan stressed the need for a "robust, reliable and student-friendly" payment ecosystem, particularly for post-examination services such as re-evaluation, obtaining photocopies of answer sheets and other fee-based processes.

Earlier this week, Pradhan roped in the four PSUs along with IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur to address glitches in the re-evaluation process, following several complaints about the onscreen marking system (OMS). IIT Madras director V Kamakoti said the institute's team is carrying out a diagnosis of the re-evaluation site.

"He (Pradhan) directed the banks to assist the CBSE in establishing robust payment protocols to ensure timely transactions, immediate resolution of payment-related issues, and automatic refunds for excess or failed payments. The banks have been asked to work closely with the CBSE to strengthen the payment gateway infrastructure through advanced technical safeguards, real-time monitoring, and faster grievance redressal mechanisms," the ministry release said.

Pradhan urged senior officials to give the highest priority to this initiative to ensure that students do not face technical glitches or payment failures in the future. He asked the banks to ensure smooth, secure and efficient digital transactions.

The four banks committed to implementing enhanced protocols and technical upgrades at the earliest, in coordination with the CBSE, the release said.

## SC to deliver verdict on pleas challenging SIR today

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court is set to pronounce its judgment on Wednesday on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) exercise of voter lists being carried out by the Election Commission.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V M Pancholi will pronounce the verdict on Wednesday.

The court will decide whether the EC has the power to conduct SIR in its present form under Article 326 of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the related rules.

The batch of petitions, which were filed in June last year following the ECI's decision to conduct SIR in Bihar, includes the ones filed by: NGOs — The Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), political activist Yogendra Yadav, MPs Mahua Moitra, Manoj Jha, K C Venugopal and, Supriya Sule and Mujahid Alam, National Federation for Indian Women (NFIW), and others.

The EC had, in June 2025, decided to conduct the SIR in Bihar and many other states.

With this, a batch of pleas was filed before the top court challenging the constitutional validity of the entire exercise.

The petitioners claimed the exercise violated Articles 14, 19, 21, 325, 326 of the Constitution of India and provisions of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

## Haryana lawyer moves EC to register Cockroach Janta Party

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** A Haryana lawyer has submitted an application to register the satirical 'Cockroach Janta Party' as a political party, claiming that he is its national convenor, and he took the step as its founder Abhijeet Dipke refused to come to India and convert it into a proper political movement.

Panipat-based Sudhir Jakhar said he submitted the application on May 22, a week after Dipke created social media accounts titled CJP on social media platforms following Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's controversial remarks, which the latter claimed were misrepresented.

The X account of CJP was withheld last Thursday.

Jakhar told *DH* that he initiated the action to register the party, as Boston-based Dipke did not come to the country. He said he was a student leader and that he would submit some fresh documents for registration on Wednesday.

He said they went ahead with the registration process as they fear that someone else may file an application and misuse it, leading to the movement fizzling out.

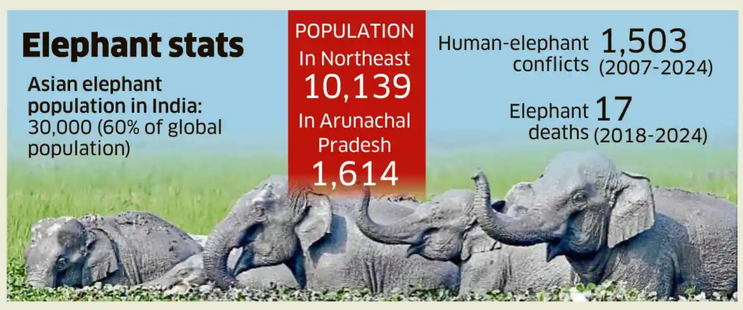
**HIGHLAND HERD**

## At 3,266 metres, jumbos scale new heights in Arunachal

**SUMIR KARMAKAR**
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Elephants seem to be scaling new heights, with conservationists recently recording a herd of jumbos at an elevation of 3,266 metres in Arunachal Pradesh, the highest known elephant presence documented anywhere in the world.

A herd of three elephants was camera-trapped by a joint team of conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature, India (WWF, India), and the Arunachal Pradesh forest department inside Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in West Kameng district between December 2025 and May 2026. Three elephants were camera-trapped in two separate photos, the group said.




"The region is rich in dwarf bamboo (Arundinaria sp.) and contains several wetlands and high-altitude lakes, which seem to attract elephants to such elevated terrain. But a further study is required to understand the reasons why they are moving to such high altitudes," a WWF, India official told *DH*.

The assessment, done between December 2024 and March 2026, represents the first comprehensive effort to understand the scale, intensity and trends of adverse human-elephant interactions across Arunachal Pradesh.

Northeast India is one of the largest habitats for Asian elephants, with the region recording 10,139 jumbos (out of 30,000 recorded across India).

#### Human-elephant conflict

The report, 'Managing Human-Elephant Conflict in Arunachal Pradesh', noted that changes in land-use patterns — which are driven by expanding human settlements, infrastructure projects, oil palm cultivation, habitat degradation and the loss of ecological connectivity — have led to a rise in conflict.

# Information watchdog flags 'persistent crisis' of suicides on IIT campuses

## Underlines 'dire need' for corrective measures, recommends high-level panels

NEW DELHI, PTI

Observing a "persistent crisis" of suicides across IIT campuses, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has recommended the constitution of high-level committees at the institutes to address factors contributing to such deaths, underlining the "dire need" for corrective measures.

The recommendation of the apex transparency watchdog came while hearing a batch of appeals after the IITs refused to disclose details of suicide case victims at IIT Madras, IIT Jodhpur, IIT Goa and IIT Kanpur.

The commission upheld that the information amounted to personal data of third parties and could not be disclosed but said that institutions must strengthen transparency regarding preventive mechanisms and mental health initiatives.

**DISTURBING TREND**

- The CIC calls for high-level committees at IITs to address the issue of suicides
- Says the institutions must strengthen transparency on the preventive mechanisms and mental health initiatives
- According to an NCRB report, student suicides increased from 13,892 in 2023 to 14,488 in 2024

Information Commissioner Sudha Rani Relangi said there is a "persistent crisis" of multiple suicides annually across IIT campuses, with a "high concentration" at institutions such as IIT Kanpur and IIT Kharagpur, and there was a "dire need" for universities to set up panels to address factors leading to such incidents, if not already constituted.

The commission also asked IITs to proactively disclose details related to the constitution and functioning of such committees on their official websites under the RTI Act.

The order assumes significance against the backdrop of the recently published National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, which showed that while overall suicides in India marginally declined in 2024, student suicides continued to rise.

According to the NCRB's "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2024" report, student suicides increased from 13,892 in 2023 to 14,488 in 2024 – a rise of nearly 4.3%. Students accounted for 8.5% of all suicide victims in 2024, up from 8.1% in 2023. The data translates to nearly 40 student suicides every day, or almost one every 36 minutes.

# 5 enter septic tank to rescue builder in Odisha; all die

**BHUBANESWAR/BHAWANIPATNA, PTI:** At least six people died of suspected asphyxiation inside an under-construction septic tank in Odisha's Kalahandi district on Tuesday, police said.

One person also fell ill in the incident that took place at Gauda Karlakhunta village, an officer said.

All of them were taken to the Madanpur Rampur Community Health Centre (CHC), where doctors declared six people dead, he said.

The deceased are three masons, a labourer, the builder of the septic tank and his son, police said.

The incident happened when they opened a portion of the septic tank for construction-related work, and the builder accidentally fell inside, the officer said.

To rescue him, the others entered the tank, he said.

The deceased were identified as Nimai Pal (48) and his son Akash Pal (28), Adal Majhi (55), Manoranjan Hati (27), Chhanda Jal (32) and Bipul Jal (30).

Pankaj Yani (32) is undergoing treatment in hospital.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

"On learning about the tragic accident at a construction site in Madanpur- Rampur, Kalahandi district, which claimed the lives of six people, Chief Minister Shri @MohanMOdisha has expressed deep grief and condolences to the families of the deceased.

# Senior Maoist leader Narahari surrenders

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a major blow to the outlawed CPI (Maoist), senior Central Committee member Pasunuri Narahari, alias Vishwanath, surrendered before Telangana Director General of Police C V Anand in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Narahari, 64, served as secretary of the CPI (Maoist) Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee (BJSAC) and was widely regarded as an expert in arms fabrication and repair. His surrender is being seen as a near-fatal blow to the organisation's last surviving Eastern Regional Bureau, which is reportedly on the verge of collapse.

His wife, Medara Danamma, also known as Latha and a State Committee member, surrendered alongside him. Police said deteriorating health prompted the decision.

With Narahari's surrender, only two senior Maoist leaders — Vartha Sekhar and Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy — are believed to remain active in the top leadership.

The surrender comes amid sustained anti-Maoist operations and mounting pressure from security forces across Left Wing Extremism-affected regions. Telangana Police and intelligence agencies have intensified efforts in recent years to persuade senior cadres to surrender under rehabilitation policies offering financial assistance and reintegration support.

Born in Somidi village in Hanamkonda district, Narahari joined the movement in 1982 under the influence of CPI (ML) People's War leader Puli Anjaiah. He later rose through the ranks to become a Central Committee member in 2017.

Police said Narahari possessed extensive expertise in the manufacture and maintenance of firearms, mortars, rockets and booby traps, and trained cadres in weapons production and repair.

DGP Anand said Narahari was given Rs 25 lakh and his wife Rs 20 lakh under the Telangana government's Rehabilitation Policy.

"With these developments, the organisation's last surviving Eastern Regional Bureau appears to be on the verge of collapse," Anand said.

# Supreme Court seeks Centre's response on 'vague' wetland definition

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Centre on a petition challenging the "vague" definition of wetland under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was hearing a plea filed by biologist Ravindra Sinha and others, questioning the constitutional validity of the definition under Rule 2(g).

The rule defines a wetland as an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, argued that the definition in the 2017 Rules had diluted the protection available to wetlands, resulting in several ecologically sensitive sites being left out of regulatory safeguards. He claimed that 44 out of 99 sites have lost protection due to the diluted norms.

The petition highlighted that the exclusionary part of Rule 2(g) removes safeguards for river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies, tanks built for drinking water, and structures created for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation.

After hearing the submissions, the bench issued notice to the Union of India and the National Wetlands Committee, directing them to file their responses by August 10.

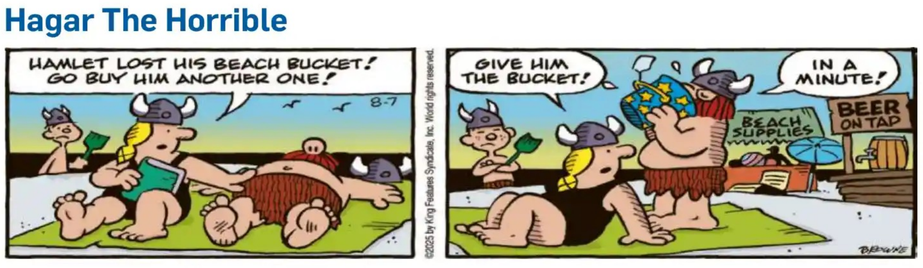
"We are limiting our notice to the vagueness of the definition," the SC clarified.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

### Hagar The Horrible

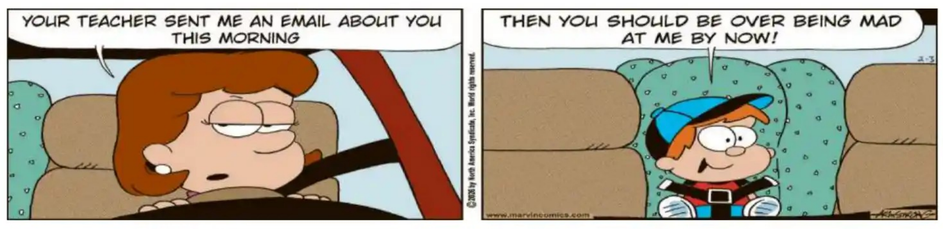



### Beetle Bailey

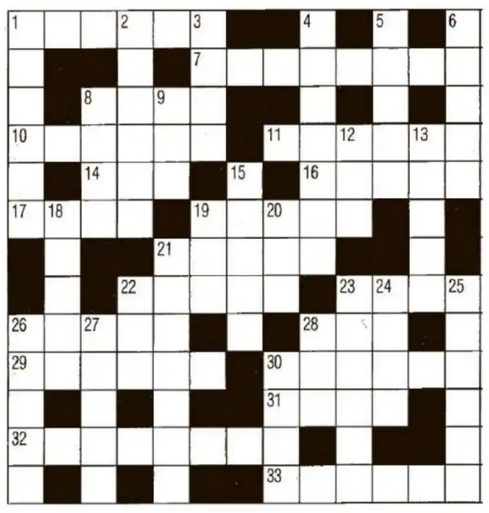
### Peanuts

WHY ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND THIS TREE, CHARLIE BROWN?
I'M JUST LOOKING AT THE HOUSE WHERE THE LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL LIVES.. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'M ALIVE
WHAT YOU NEED THEN IS SOME SUBTLE WAY OF LETTING HER KNOW
I GUESS THAT'S RIGHT
HEY, KID, YOUR LOVER'S OUT HERE!

### Marvin




## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12425



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**

1 Of such music, a piece is of questionable length (6)
7 Can one order such a bed? (5,3)
8 Pack up for post, possibly (4)
10 Go back and make another concession? (6)
11 A spectator's view? (6)
14 Not to mention the outlandish bit (3)
16 Had ways of going to hell! (5)
17 It's tough, being caught outright! (4)
19 Intertwined with material benefit (5)
21 Attendants possibly back to back (5)
22 To run away is quite legal, in short (5)
23 Hardly a finishing school! (4)
26 To cut or reduce severely (5)
28 The master has sweetheart ñ name her! (3)
29 That horsy man leaping about on board! (6)
30 Sausages for the girlfriend (6)
31 A stone to duck, chum (4)
32 It won't hold much soap, note, if shaken (8)
33 Slippery, perhaps, and grey as can be (6)

**DOWN**

1 Shaken by a crash outside the Turk's Head, you need a stiffener (6)
2 Mean to indent anew (6)
3 Give the dentist an astonished look? (4)
4 Looks embarrassed when left in the shrubbery (7)
5 Spotted one being rushed outside (5)
6 Are they best sorted out with Danish capital? (5)
8 A blemish to the borough, up North? (4)
9 To do wrong to a good end, seems strange (3)
12 All for a mythical god (3)
13 Stop having a bearing in the case (5)
15 Reason to keep a record, I see (5)
18 Foreign film? (5)
19 Is he movingly funny? (3)
20 His patients don't talk (3)
21 Possibly getting a fashion-centre into the papers? (7)
22 The French, at long last, have a cricket side! (3)
23 A better team than Villa? (6)
24 No phony earl, it's true (4)
25 Not quite prim, and a bit fussy? (6)
26 Fish on board? (5)
27 Between a couple, the tango is very important (5)
28 Chart useful in semaphore (3)
30 Musical number with very little going for it (4)

**ACROSS**

1 French port (6)
7 Approximate calculation (8)
8 Meat spread (4)
10 Calm, tranquil (6)
11 Change in form (6)
14 Star (3)
16 Sum (5)
17 Girl (4)
19 Thin candle (5)
21 Water lily (5)
22 Adult human female (5)
23 US coin (4)
26 Light purple (5)
28 Levy (3)
29 Waterproof jacket (6)
30 Injury or wound (6)
31 Single entity (4)
32 Set of bones (8)
33 Spheres (6)

**DOWN**

1 House of God (6)
2 Counting device (6)
3 Plant ovule (4)
4 Thins down (7)
5 Unit of purity of gold (5)
6 Insurgent (5)
8 Go by (4)
9 Can (3)
12 Hill (3)
13 Sharp hooked claw (5)
15 Death-dealing (5)
18 Once more (5)
19 Male cat (3)
20 Play on words (3)
21 Finds (7)
22 Opposite of peace (3)
23 Gambling place (6)
24 Egress (4)
25 Sport (6)
26 Lariat (5)
27 Friendless person (5)
28 Number (3)
30 Breathing organ (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12424**

**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS:** 1, Roman 6, Mouth 9, Ca-U-tion 10, Tight 11, Metre 12, (here-)After 13, Seen off 15, MOT 17, Prig 18, Strata 19, Areas 20, Cheese 22, Sage 24, Ear 25, Post-men 26, Lenin(-grad) 27, Major 28, Lilac 29, Stinker 30, Faces 31, Aside.

**DOWN:** 2, Oliver 3, A-chin-g 4, (g-)Nat 5, Staff 6, Moments 7, Oner 8, Tur-b-ot 12, Af-I-re 13, Space 14, Eider 15, Madam (ma'am) 16, Taken 18, Salon 19, Ass-erts 21, Havana 22, St-a-irs 23, Gera-Rd 25, Piano 26, Lo-SE 28, Lea.

**EASY**

**ACROSS:** 1, Cheap 6, Night 9, Doormat 10, Droop 11, Tears 12, Serum 13, Logical 15, Lip 17, Eros 18, Canine 19, Cruel 20, Paddle 22, Test 24, Spa 25, Bemuses 26, Salad 27, Lemon 28, Sects 29, Residue 30, Sewer 31, Enter.

**DOWN:** 2, Horror 3, Adonis 4, Pop 5, Gruel 6, Natural 7, Item 8, Heroin 12, Sabre 13, Leaps 14, Gouda 15, Lines 16, Pests 18, Ceded 19, Cleaner 21, Apiece 22, Tureen 23, Settee 25, Basic 26, Sore 28, Sue.

## ◆ SU-DO-KU-6916 ◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | | | 3 | | 2 | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | 1 | 5 | 8 | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 7 | 4 | | 2 | | |
| | | 7 | | | | 6 | | |
| | | 4 | | 2 | 5 | | | 1 |
| | | | | | 7 | 8 | 1 | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | 6 | | 1 | | | | | 9 |

hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 |

**SOLUTION TO 6915**

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I1 L1 R1 T1 B3 E1 A1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| A1 E1 T1 H4 R1 T1 C3 | Triple Word Score | RACK 2 |
| Y4 Y4 F4 D2 R1 A1 E1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 3 |
| O1 L1 B3 Y4 N1 A1 E1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 4 |

PAR SCORE 190-200
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S1 A1 T1 I1 E1 T1 Y4 | RACK 1 = | 60 |
| F4 I1 L1 L1 E1 R1 S1 | RACK 2 = | 68 |
| C3 A1 R1 V4 I1 N1 G2 | RACK 3 = | 76 |
| S1 K5 I1 R1 T1 E1 D2 | RACK 4 = | 86 |
| PAR SCORE 190-200 | JUDD'S TOTAL | 290 |

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

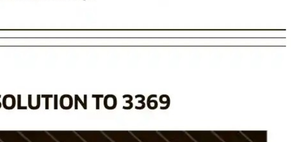
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEGSU

PRTUE

CRUNIH

DRPYAO




Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○○○○ - ○○○○○○○"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOURD PROOF COBALT ENSIGN
Answer: The grocery store customers waiting to pay for items formed a — LINE OF PRODUCTS

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## HITORI-3370

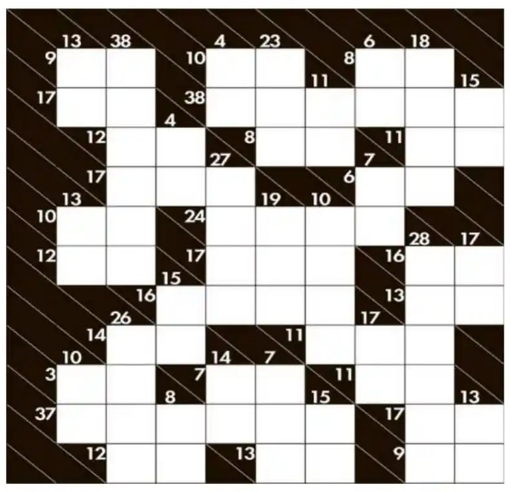
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 |

**SOLUTION TO 3369**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | ■ | 3 | ■ |
| ■ | 5 | ■ | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | ■ | 2 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | ■ | 6 |
| 4 | ■ | 7 | ■ | 8 | 5 | 6 | ■ |
| 6 | 2 | ■ | 7 | 1 | 4 | ■ | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | ■ | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| ■ | 8 | 5 | 1 | ■ | 3 | ■ | 2 |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3370



**SOLUTION TO 3369**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3928

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | 6 | | | | | 2 |
| | ■ | | | | | 9 | ■ | |
| | 7 | ■ | | 1 | | ■ | | |
| | | | ■ | 6 | ■ | 5 | | |
| | | 6 | 7 | ■ | | | | |
| | | | 8 | | 3 | | | |
| 8 | | ■ | | 3 | | 2 | | 5 |
| | 9 | | 5 | | | | ■ | |
| ■ | 2 | | | | 4 | 3 | | 1 |

**SOLUTION TO 3927**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

# Iran accuses US of violating truce after fresh strikes

## Tehran says new US attacks threaten ceasefire efforts amid negotiations

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran accused the United States of breaching their ceasefire on Tuesday after overnight US strikes targeting Iranian missile sites and mine-laying boats threatened diplomatic efforts to secure a deal to end the war.

The Brent benchmark oil price jumped by almost 3 per cent after US Central Command announced the new wave of bombings, while China urged both sides to respect the truce and resolve their dispute peacefully.

According to the maritime safety monitor UKMTO, a blast damaged a tanker on the waterline off Oman, although the crew and vessel were reportedly safe after what was described as an "external explosion".

Iranian state media reported overnight blasts in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, near the Strait of Hormuz, while the country's Revolutionary Guards Corps said its forces had downed a US drone entering its airspace and had fired at an F-35 fighter jet.

A woman watches a broadcast delivered on behalf of Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei in Tehran on Tuesday. AFP

"The US terrorist army, continuing its illegal and unjustified actions since the ceasefire ... has, in the past 48 hours, committed a gross violation of the ceasefire in the Hormozgan region," the Iranian foreign ministry said.

It added that Tehran "will not leave any evil unanswered and will not hesitate to defend the Iranian nation", without elaborating. In a statement marking the start of the Eid al-Adha holiday, Tehran's supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei declared that Washington was losing its influence in West Asia and warned countries in the region to stop hosting bases from which the US could launch attacks.

The United States, he said in a written statement, "in addition to no longer having any safe haven in the region for aggression and the establishment of military bases, is moving further and further away from its former position with each passing day".

Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for US Central Command, said: "US forces conducted self-defence strikes in southern Iran today to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces." He gave few details of the attacks and said only that the targets included missile launch sites and boats trying to "emplace mines".

### Not in favour of joining Abraham Accords: Pak

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said he is not in favour of Islamabad joining the Abraham Accords to normalise relations with Israel, PTI reports from Islamabad.

His comments came after US President Donald Trump asked countries involved in the peace talks with Iran to sign on to the Abraham Accords, which involve establishing diplomatic, economic and security ties between Israel and Arab nations. "Personally, I don't think we should join any such accord that clashes with our fundamental ideologies," Asif said. Among the countries involved in the talks, the UAE and Bahrain are already members of the accords, while Trump expects Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Turkiye, Egypt and Jordan to sign up.

### STATE OF AFFAIRS

- Iran partially restored internet connectivity on Tuesday after an almost three-month shutdown imposed against the backdrop of the war against Israel and the US.
- US President Donald Trump is set to hold a rare cabinet meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat on Wednesday.

## Israel, Hezbollah clash near Litani River

**BEIRUT, AP/PTI:** Israel's military clashed with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group on Tuesday along a strategic river in Lebanon as Israeli troops attempted to push farther north, just three days before Lebanese and Israeli military delegations are set to meet for direct talks in Washington.

A previously agreed ceasefire appeared increasingly fragile, complicating efforts towards a broader peace in the Iran war, as Tehran wants any end to the fighting to include Lebanon.

The Litani River has served as a de facto boundary in Lebanon, with large areas to the south remaining under Israeli military control despite the Washington-brokered ceasefire that has been in place for more than a month.

One Israeli strike kills 12, including several relatives Tuesday's intensified strikes and clashes came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had authorised more intensive strikes targeting Hezbollah across Lebanon.

Meanwhile, an Israeli security official said the military had called up an additional battalion to Lebanon, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

Singer Ejae, winner of the Song of the Year, Best Pop Song and Best Vocal Performance awards for "Golden," poses at the American Music Awards in Las Vegas on Monday. AFP

### Road renaming plan delayed in Lahore over extremist threats

▶ Yielding to pressure from some "extremist elements", Pakistan's Punjab government has deferred its plan to restore the original historical names of roads and several streets in Lahore, aimed at reviving the city's pre-Partition heritage, PTI reports from Lahore.

The Lahore Heritage Areas Revival (LHAR), in its recent meeting jointly presided over by PML-N President and three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, approved the restoration of the original historical names of roads and streets in Lahore and nearby areas. An official source, however, said extremist elements, including vloggers, strongly criticised Maryam for restoring "Hindu and Sikh" names to roads and streets in Lahore. "As the critics gave the government's decision a religious colour, the Maryam Nawaz administration has gone on the back foot and deferred the decision to avert backlash," the source said. Following the backlash, the LHAR recently held a gathering of scholars, historians, architects, urban planners and others to seek suggestions on the proposal.

### Trump undergoes medical test

▶ President Donald Trump underwent another medical examination on Tuesday, putting his health under renewed public scrutiny as he works to dismiss concerns over his age and stamina, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The 79-year-old president spent more than three hours at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for what the White House described as preventive medical and dental check-ups. It was Trump's fourth publicly disclosed medical examination since returning to office for a second term. Trump said he had just completed his "6 month physical" and that "Everything checked out PERFECTLY."

Ferrari's first fully electric car, called 'Luce' ("light"), is on display in Rome on Monday. The five-seat car, which could be priced at over 700,000 euros ($815,000), boasts a top speed of over 310 km/h and a range of more than 530 kilometres. AFP

### 4 die in Belgium train-bus crash

▶ A crash between a bus and a high-speed train in northern Belgium killed four people, including two children, and injured five other children, prosecutors said on Tuesday, AP/PTI reports from Buggenhout (Belgium).

The injured children were taken to hospital in a serious condition, spokeswoman Lisa De Wilde said at a news conference. The accident happened at a level crossing during the morning rush hour near the town of Buggenhout, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of the capital, Brussels. De Wilde said the dead included the driver of the minibus, an escort and two children. She added that the cause of the accident had not yet been established. Investigators are questioning witnesses and checking footage from nearby cameras.

# China, Pakistan agree to revamp economic corridor

## Beijing and Islamabad push Gwadar port as regional hub

KARACHI, REUTERS

China and Pakistan have reached a "new broad consensus" on deepening strategic ties to boost development of a joint economic corridor and establish the port of Gwadar as a regional connectivity hub, the neighbours said on Tuesday.

The remarks came in a joint statement as Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wrapped up a visit to Beijing at a time when Islamabad is seeking investment while navigating tensions with Afghanistan and mediating in the Iran war.

"Both sides welcomed third parties to participate in the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under the agreed model," they said in the statement issued after Sharif met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

Chinese workers are seen after arriving at Gwadar airport in Gwadar, Pakistan. REUTERS FILE

They agreed to promote "high-quality" development of CPEC, a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, develop Pakistan's port of Gwadar, and strengthen road and port links. The plans include the Khunjerab Pass and an upgrade of the Karakoram Highway, the main overland link between China and Pakistan.

Pakistan also promised targeted steps to boost security cooperation to ensure the safety of Chinese workers and investments in Pakistan, a key concern for Beijing after repeated militant attacks on its nationals and projects.

# Oxford's Ebola vaccine nears human trials

BLOOMBERG

Production of an experimental Ebola vaccine from the developers of a Covid-19 shot is expected to begin soon, with animal studies underway as researchers race to bring a much-needed tool to the spiralling outbreak.

Clinical trials for the shot could begin in two to three months, said Teresa Lambe, head of vaccine immunology at the University of Oxford's Pandemic Sciences Institute. "We are cautiously optimistic around that timing," she said at a briefing. Animal studies, which are required before a vaccine can be tested in humans, have begun and more will get underway soon.

### Two to three months

The Oxford team is working to get the starting material needed to manufacture the vaccine to its partner, the Serum Institute of India, "as quickly as possible," Lambe said. "We're hoping to have clinical doses, if needed, within two to three months, all going well."

There is no approved vaccine or treatment for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola spreading in the Democratic Republic of Congo. At least one other shot is also in development, but it is expected to be ready for testing later than Oxford's. The outbreak is currently spreading faster than responders can contain it, with suspected deaths climbing above 220 and treatment centres under attack.

The Oxford vaccine uses the same approach that underpinned the Covid-19 shot from Oxford and AstraZeneca Plc. Lessons from the development of that vaccine have helped speed up the current research. Existing vaccines for different strains of Ebola are not currently being considered for front-line health workers, Gavi's chief executive officer Sania Nishtar said in an interview.

A Red Cross Society worker sprays disinfectant in Kampala on Tuesday. AFP

Gavi, which helps procure vaccines on behalf of countries, has said it is willing to make an advance purchase commitment for an Ebola shot as soon as it is relevant. The commitment would encourage manufacturers to invest in trials, speed up development and "assign their A teams on this matter," Nishtar said.

Several treatments are also ready to be tested, including the antiviral remdesivir, which was used to treat Covid-19 infections. While there is optimism around trials starting, experts caution that it will be many months until these products, if they prove effective, are widely available.

## 17 Indian-origin men arrested in Canada for extortion

**OTTAWA, PTI:** Canadian police have arrested 17 men, believed to be of Indian origin, for their alleged involvement in extortion and organised crime targeting South Asian business owners and community members in the region.

The Extortion Task Force of Peel Police "dismantled a coordinated campaign of intimidation, threats and escalating violence used to extort local businesses", according to a press release issued by Peel Regional Police on its official website on Monday.

The majority of those arrested have ties to an international criminal network known as 'For Brothers', which targeted South Asian business owners and community members across regions in Canada and the US, the release said. The organised criminal network is believed to have been active in Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon and British Columbia, with links to California, it added.

"We recognise the fear and harm this has caused, particularly within the South Asian community, and remain committed to putting a stop to these crimes and keeping our communities safe," Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah said. The 17 individuals were arrested in April 2026 after a joint investigation launched in December 2025 by Canadian police, security agencies and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

## Pakistan asks India to honour Indus Waters Treaty

**ISLAMABAD, PTI:** Pakistan on Tuesday urged India to respect the Indus Waters Treaty, saying any attempt to place the treaty in abeyance would set a dangerous precedent for downstream countries.

Addressing a high-level international water conference in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, Pakistan's Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Malik, accused India of seeking to politicise shared water resources.

He said unilateral actions affecting transboundary rivers could create serious global challenges related to water security, food production and climate resilience. The minister urged India to respect the IWT and honour international mediation mechanisms, warning that putting the treaty in abeyance would set a dangerous precedent for downstream countries worldwide.

A day after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 last year, India took a series of measures against Pakistan, including placing the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. Pakistan rejected India's suspension of the treaty and said any measures to stop the flow of water "belonging to Pakistan" under the pact would be seen as an "act of war".

## US plans to cut strategic weapons for Nato

**REUTERS:** The US intends to significantly reduce the military assets available to assist European allies in a crisis, including fighter jets, warships and mid-air refuelling aircraft, Spiegel reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, an envoy of US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth briefed senior officials from member states on the plan at Nato headquarters in Brussels late last week. Three sources said the US planned to inform Nato allies that it would shrink the pool of military capabilities available to the alliance during a crisis.

**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1 (BSWML), 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 052.

No. DGM-1/BSWML/PR/344/26-27 Date: 26.05.2026

**QUOTATION NOTIFICATION**

The Deputy General Manager–1 invites Quotations for the work described in the table below. Bidders may submit their quotations for the work mentioned therein.
The quotation shall be submitted in a sealed cover to above mentioned office within the date and time specified.

**Description of work**

Transportation of Raw Fresh Leachate about 4.5 lakhs litres to farmers land (35 Km around), from Doddabidarakallu Wet Waste Processing Plant using appropriate vehicles. Including labours with necessary gears and safety equipment, machinery, lead, lift, toll charges, all taxes, GST (If applicable). As per the direction of engineer in charge of the Work

**Calendar of events:**
1. Submission of quotation: **27.05.2026** onwards.
2. Last date submission of quotations: **05.06.2026 before 5.30 PM.**
3. Date of opening of quotations: **06.06.2026 after 11.00 AM onwards**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/832/Shirdi Sai/2026-27 **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
**ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ**
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿಉ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನಂ. 04/2026–27: ಎಇ–1/467 /ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

(ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ e-portal ನಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರಿಂದ 2025–26 ಸಾಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ (SDMF) ರಡಿಯ ಅನುದಾನದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Documents for Procurment of Goods) ನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal WEBsite https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ: **Construction of a Retaining Wall at landslide area of Palimar Kote road in the Palimaru Grama Panchayat area of kaup Taluk. (Reserved For CAT-IIA),** ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 70.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.70000.00, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ: ಕ್ಲಾಸ್–3 ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, (CAT-IIA ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಮಾತ್ರ)

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–05–2026 ರಿಂದ 29–05–2026ರ 4.00 (PM) ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–05–2026 ರ 4.30 (PM) ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ವಾಣಾಇ/ಪನಿಉ/ಕೆಪಿಸ್‌ಎಂಎ/122/26–27 ದಿ: 26.05.2026

**THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339,
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

**TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 04/26-27 Dt: 27.05.2026**
**(Through KPP Portal only)**

Tenders are invited by "The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders, detailed below:

| Sl. No. | Description | EMD in Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Supply of cement OPC 43 GR. **HGML/2025-26/IND0440** | 51,000/- |
| 2 | Supply of Vegetables & Greens for 06 Months. **HGML/2026-27/IND0496** | 70,000/- |
| 3 | Construction of CC road and drain at KV staff quarters. **HGML/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT139** | 77,000/- |
| 4 | Roof sheet Laying work at circular shaft Head gear area. **HGML/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT137** | 25,500/- |
| 5 | Rewinding and Reconditioning of 11 KV, 1100KW, BHEL Make Squirrel Cage Induction motor. **HGML/2026-27/SE0090** | 74,500/- |
| 6 | NDT & Stability Testing of UG Diesel Equipments. **HGML/2025-26/SE0081/CALL-2** | 45,000/- |

**Calendar of events**: **(1)** Last date for receipt of tender: **12.06.2026 at 4.00 P.M.** **(2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **15.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.

**Sd/- I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)**

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

## Tata Sons board meet concludes

**MUMBAI, PTI:** A board meeting of Tata Sons, the holding company of the salt-to-software conglomerate, concluded on Tuesday.

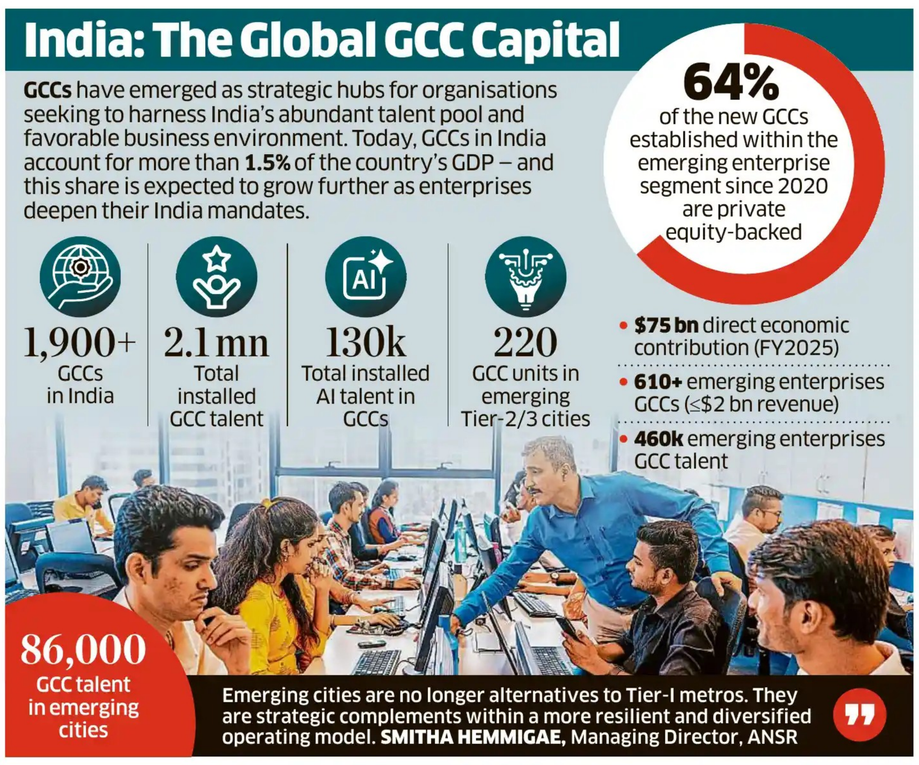
Directors of the board, including Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata (in pic), arrived at its headquarters Bombay House in the morning and left late afternoon.

N Chandrasekaran, chairman of the group, did not speak to the waiting media on the decisions at the board meeting while exiting the group headquarters in South Mumbai.

A discussion on Chandrasekaran's reappointment was unlikely at the board meeting, which comes amid rising frictions within the Tata Group.

### EMERGING CITIES: Job openings at Global Capability Centres record 42% growth

# GCCs turn to Tier-2 cities for growth: Report


India: The Global GCC Capital
GCCs have emerged as strategic hubs for organisations seeking to harness India's abundant talent pool and favorable business environment. Today, GCCs in India account for more than 1.5% of the country's GDP – and this share is expected to grow further as enterprises deepen their India mandates.
64%
of the new GCCs established within the emerging enterprise segment since 2020 are private equity-backed
1,900+
GCCs in India
2.1 mn
Total installed GCC talent
130k
Total installed AI talent in GCCs
220
GCC units in emerging Tier-2/3 cities
$75 bn direct economic contribution (FY2025)
610+ emerging enterprises GCCs (≤$2 bn revenue)
460k emerging enterprises GCC talent
86,000
GCC talent in emerging cities
Emerging cities are no longer alternatives to Tier-I metros. They are strategic complements within a more resilient and diversified operating model. SMITHA HEMMIGAE, Managing Director, ANSR

**S N V SUDHIR**
HYDERABAD, DHNS

At least 14 Tier-2 cities have been identified as 'emerging cities' for hosting Global Capability Centres (GCCs), signalling a decisive geographic shift in one of India's most-dynamic economic segments.

India is currently home to more than 1,900 GCCs, employing over 2.1 million professionals, a sector that now contributes more than 1.5% of the country's GDP. Yet, the vast majority of this activity has remained concentrated in six Tier-1 metros—Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR. That trend is beginning to change.

According to the 'Emerging Cities: India's Next Frontier for GCC Expansion Report 2026' by ANSR, released on Tuesday, emerging cities already host over 220 GCC facilities, are growing at nearly 11% CAGR, and have recorded 42% growth in GCC job openings, more than double the 19% recorded in established metro hubs. The geographic centre of gravity of India's GCC landscape, the report concludes, is decisively shifting.

"Emerging cities are no longer alternatives to Tier-1 metros, they are strategic complements within a more resilient and diversified operating model," said Smitha Hemmigae, Managing Director, ANSR.

"The next chapter of India's GCC story will not be defined by concentration, but by distribution — by the ability of enterprises to build agile, capability-led networks across a wider geographic canvas. The enterprises that recognise this early, and act with conviction, will define the next decade," she said.

### 14 emerging locations

The report evaluated 14 emerging GCC locations—GIFT City, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Thiruvananthapuram, Navi Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Bhopal, and Warangal — across four strategic pillars, including talent attractiveness, infrastructure readiness, business and regulatory environment, and quality of life. Each city was assessed for its ability to support high-value, future-focused GCC mandates, not merely as a cost-reduction play.

### Converging forces

The findings pointed to a structural inflection point driven by six converging forces. Chief among them is a talent geography rebalancing, reflected in the 42% surge in GCC job openings in emerging cities, compared to 19% in metro hubs.

Infrastructure gaps are closing rapidly through increased budget allocations, SEZ expansions, metro rail buildouts, and airport modernisation.

The policy environment has also been transformed by the Union Budget 2025's national guidance framework, the first coordinated, government-backed push to develop GCC-ready ecosystems beyond India's major metros.

Cutting across all of these is the impact of AI, which is steadily narrowing the capability divide between Tier-1 and 2 locations and opening new possibilities for building distributed, high-impact delivery networks.

The report also identified five strategic imperatives that cities must execute to translate potential into competitive leadership from establishing future-ready digital foundations and scalable infrastructure platforms, to engineering deep talent ecosystems and delivering streamlined regulatory frameworks that give global enterprises the certainty to invest at scale.

## Rupee falls 44 paise to close at 95.70 against US dollar

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The rupee depreciated 44 paise to close at 95.70 against the US dollar on Tuesday, on renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a rise in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said a strong US dollar and weak domestic markets also pressured the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.43 against the dollar, and touched an intraday high of 95.33 and a low of 95.76 against the American currency.

At the end of Tuesday's close, the rupee was quoted at 95.70, down 44 paise from its previous closing.

On Monday, the rupee gained 34 paise to close at 95.26 against the US dollar with the RBI selling dollars and keeping the rupee well bid at all upper levels.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on uncertainty between the US and Iran, and concerns over military action in West Asia. However, softening of crude oil prices from higher levels may support the rupee at lower levels. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95.20 to 95.85," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Forex traders said the rupee remains vulnerable to rising crude oil prices and the strength of the American currency in the overseas market.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.05, down 0.19%.

## Nilekani-backed VC firm launches tech investment platform with Rs 3k cr corpus

### F2A focused on stage-agnostic, tech-led businesses

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nandan Nilekani-backed VC firm Fundamentum Partnership on Tuesday announced the launch of a frontier-tech investment platform, F2A (Fundamentum Frontier Advisors), with a target corpus of Rs 2,000 crore. This will back firms building at the forefront of Consumer, Enterprise and Physical AI.

F2A will also oversee up to Rs 1,000 crore of parallel co-investments alongside the fund.

F2A builds on the investment approach developed across the earlier Fundamentum funds, and is focused on stage-agnostic, technology-led businesses operating in large and evolving markets.

Nilekani, Anchor Investor, F2A, said, "Technology-led innovation continues to create new opportunities across sectors. Platforms combining long-term thinking with strong execution capabilities can play an important role in supporting this evolution."

Technology-led innovation continues to create new opportunities across sectors. Platforms combining long-term thinking with strong execution capabilities can play an important role in supporting this evolution.
Nandan Nilekani, Anchor Investor, F2A

Ashish Kumar, Co-founder, Fundamentum, said, "We are seeing a structural shift in how AI and DeepTech are being built and adopted across sectors. F2A is a continuation of our effort to partner with founders building enduring, technology-led businesses, with the same disciplined, long-term approach that has defined Fundamentum. India today has the right combination of talent, ambition, policy and capital, and this is the moment to dedicate institutional focus to companies building at the frontier."

Ashish has sourced and invested in consumer-technology companies, including Spinny, Kuku, AppsForBharat and Wishlink, as well as enterprise-tech companies FarEye, Whizzo and GenieMode.

Debraj Banerjee joins F2A as General Partner to co-lead its AI and DeepTech strategy. Most recently, he served as Senior Fund Manager and Investment Committee Member at SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd. His portfolio includes AI and DeepTech companies such as QpiAI, Pantherun, Digantara, SigTuple, Myelin Foundry, OTPless, Fyllo, Covalense Digital, OmniBRx Biotechnologies and Serosoft Solutions, alongside consumer brands, including The Ayurveda Experience, Vahdam, DrinkPrime and Nourish You.

## CNG price hiked by Rs 2/kg; fourth increase in two weeks

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) prices were hiked by Rs 2 per kg on Tuesday, the fourth increase in less than two weeks, amid elevated energy prices in global markets.

As per data shared by government-run Indraprastha Gas Limited, 1 kg CNG now costs Rs 83.09 in Delhi, up from Rs 81.09.

Rate varies sharply across NCR due to state taxes. In Noida and Ghaziabad, the price has jumped to Rs 91.70 per kg. In Gurugram, it has been increased to Rs 88.12 per kg.

The hike in CNG price comes a day after OMCs sharply increased diesel and petrol prices. CNG prices have also been revised upward for the fourth time in less than two weeks.

It was increased by Rs 2 per kg on May 15 followed by Re 1 per kg hike on May 17 and May 23. The cumulative increase in 1 kg of CNG price stands at Rs 6.

The repeated hike in CNG prices is likely to push up transportation costs.

## Taiwan overtakes India as world's 5th largest stock market

BLOOMBERG

Taiwan overtook India in stock market value, powered mainly by a breakneck rally in the world's largest chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.

The island's market capitalisation climbed to $4.95 trillion as of Monday, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. India's value has dropped to $4.92 trillion. Taiwan's stock market is now the fifth largest in the world, behind only the US, mainland China, Japan and Hong Kong.

Taiwan's ascent up the global equity rankings is largely driven by TSMC, which now accounts for about 42% of the benchmark index, representing intense market concentration. The chipmaker's shares have rallied 46% this year as it has benefited from the artificial intelligence trade, in which its semiconductors have a dominant market position.

The surge in the island's market value highlights intense optimism in AI that is triggering a global rally in tech shares, disproportionately benefiting manufacturing hubs such as Taiwan and South Korea. India, on the other hand, is grappling with surging energy cost, slowing corporate earnings growth and the lack of companies directly linked to the AI buildout.

"Taiwan's rising market capitalisation is fundamentally a reflection of its heavy concentration in tech hardware, which is currently at the centre of the AI investment cycle," said Yi Ping Liao, a fund manager at Franklin Templeton. "Markets with limited exposure to tech hardware are increasingly being overshadowed by tech hardware–heavy markets such as Taiwan and Korea."

The Taiex Index fell 0.3% on Tuesday. The gauge remains among the world's best performers this year, having risen more than 50%. TSMC shares closed 1.7% lower.

New regulations are also in TSMC's favour. Taiwan's financial regulator last month increased the limit that domestic funds can invest in a single stock. Under the new guideline, funds that invest solely in Taiwanese stocks can hold up to 25% of their net assets in any listed company whose weighting exceeds 10% in the Taiwan Stock Exchange, up from a previous limit of 10%. Currently, only TSMC meets the criterion.

The change may help lure in more than $6 billion of inflows to TSMC, JPMorgan Chase & Co. said in a note.

While Taiwan has overtaken in market value, India's $4.15 trillion-dollar economy — among the fastest growing in the world — still trumps the island's $977 billion gross domestic product, according to International Monetary Fund estimates.

Indian stocks have fallen this year amid record foreign outflows, driven by elevated valuations and a weakening rupee. Higher energy costs have also stoked inflation concerns and clouded growth prospects.

Global funds have sold nearly $24 billion of local equities so far this year as they chased the AI boom in Taiwan and Korea. India's gauge is down 8%, heading for its first annual drop after a decade of gains. India's weight in the MSCI emerging markets index has also fallen to about 12% from 19% last year.

"India has been quite ignored for the better part of two years," Alison Shimada, portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments, told Bloomberg TV on Monday. "It is an expensive market so one has to be selective, but I think in terms of financialisation of savings, it is very prominent in India and people are moving into financial assets," she said.

## FKCCI to organise MSME conclave from May 29 in Bengaluru

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), with the Peenya Industries Association (PIA), is organising the 3rd edition of the FKCCI Global MSME Conclave 2026, from May 29-31 at Palace Grounds. The conclave will focus on the engineering sector – manufacturing and services. Organised under the theme "The $10 Trillion Journey – Sankalp to Siddhi: From Local Resolve to Global Realisation," it will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, tech providers, investors, OEMs, startups and MSMEs under one platform, according to Uma Reddy, President, FKCCI.

**BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, No. 582, 1st Main Road, B.E.L. Layout, 2nd Stage Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097
No.: BNCC/EE/VP/PR/24/2026-27 Date: 25.05.2026

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

This is to inform the public that if any dilapidated buildings / walls or other dangerous buildings are found in Government school buildings, Government compound walls, private school buildings, private school compound walls, private compound walls, Central Government buildings, Central Government compound walls existing in the limits of Vidyaranyapura Division, Ward No. 08- Singapura, 09- Kuvempunagar, 10-Vidyaranyapur, 11- Doddabommasandra, 12- Tindlu, 13-Kodigehalli and 14- Rajiv Gandhinagar the general public may immediately inform to the Vidyaranyapura Division of Bengaluru North City Corporation through telephone or through WhatsApp.

If the private school compound and private school building, private building and compound walls of private building are in a dilapidated condition / dangerous, they should bring it to the notice of the City Corporation and clear it themselves. You are hereby notified that you will be held directly responsible for any unpleasant incidents that may arise due to failure to comply.

**Contact Information: Executive Engineer-Nagappa Kamathi Mobile: 99164 18194, (2) Assistant Executive Engineer-Nagbhushan K., Mobile No.: 97413 41862, (3) Assistant Executive Engineer-Thimmaraju, Mobile No.: 91138 41949, (4) Assistant Executive Engineer-Govindappa H. Bhachantri, Mobile No.: 94485 80835.**

**Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation**

**BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshi Nagar Division, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560026
No.: EE(PN)/PR/04/2026-27 Date: 26.05.2026

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

This is to inform the public that if any dilapidated buildings / walls or other dangerous buildings are found in Government school buildings, Government compound walls, private school buildings, private school compound walls, private compound walls, Central Government buildings, Central Government compound walls existing in the limits of Bengaluru Norht City Corporation Pulikeshi Nagar Division, Ward No. 38-Shyampur, 39-Kavalbhairasandra, 40-Shaktinagar, 41-Periyar Nagar, 42-Aruna Asif Ali, 43-Varalakshmi Nagar, 44-Doddannanagar, 45-Kushalnagar, 46-Sagayapuram, 47-Pulikeshi Nagar, 48-S.K. Garden the general public may immediately inform to the Pulikeshi Nagar Division of Bengaluru North City Corporation through telephone or through WhatsApp.

If the private school compound and private school building, private building and compound walls of private building are in a dilapidated condition / dangerous, they should bring it to the notice of the City Corporation and clear it themselves. You are hereby notified that you will be held directly responsible for any unpleasant incidents that may arise due to failure to comply.

**Contact Information: (1) Executive Engineer- Thippeswamy Mobile No.: 95380 04111, (2) Assistant Executive Engineer-Devarajiah K.B., Mobile No.: 98861 53161, (3) Assistant Executive Engineer-Krishnappa V.R., Mobile No.:8867196994, (4) Assistant Executive Engineer- Raghavendra, Mobile No.: 98457 30883**

**Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Pulikeshi Nagar Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation**

Government of Karnataka
**Department Of Health and Family Welfare**
**OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST**
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040
No: DHO/Tender Notification/DH/05/2024-25 Date:21-05-2026

**SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar inviting short term re-tender for Providing Various Medical Furniture's required for New 250 Bedded District Hospital of Hosapete under 2024-25 KKRDB fund through e-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal. (Amount to Put to Tender 224.20 Lakhs) (INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/IND2106/CALL-2)

Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between date:22-05-2026 to date: 01-06-2026 time up to 05:00 pm.

For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number :08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

**Sd/-District health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar**
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/96

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**DISTRCIT CHILD PROTECTION OFFICE, BALLARI**
**(WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)**
Govt. Boys Home (Senior) Ground, Contonment, Ballari. E-Mail Id:dcpuballari@gmail.com
Land Line No.08392-294473
DCPU/B/Staff/Tender/CR/2026-27 Date: 21/05/2026

**E-Procurement Tender Announcement**

Tender has been invited through e-procurement for the recruitment of Counsellors, Housekeepers, D-Group and Computer Operators from external resource organizations in the District Child Protection Unit/Children Helpline-1098/Government Boys and Girls' Home/Mentally Retarded Boys' Home/Observatory/Precious (G) Special Adoption Institution, Bellary Institutions in the District for the year 2026-27. Eligible and approved agencies registered in the e-hottag can participate in the e-tender. The details of the e-tender are given in this e-tender.

1.Tender Announcement Number & Date: **DCPU/B/Staff/Tender/CR/2026-27 Date: 21/05/2026.** 2.Estimated amount earned by Tenders: **Rs.1,57,84,245/-(One crore fifty-seven lakh eighty-four thousand two hundred and forty-five rupees only).** 3.Last date and time for submission of bids online by tenderers: **Date:22/05/2026 District Child Protection Officers District Child Protection Unit. Bellary.** 4.Pre-Bid Meeting Date and time: **Date:30/05/2026 Time:11.00 District Child Protection Officers District Child Protection Unit. Bellary.** 5.Date and time of opening of technical bids: **Date:23/06/2026 5 11.00 District Child Protection Unit, Bellary.** 6.Place, date and time of opening of financial bids: **Date:-25/06/2026 5 11.00 0. District Child Protection Unit, Bellary.** 7.2% EMD amount: **Rs.315684.90 (Three lakh fifteen thousand six hundred eighty-four rupees only).** 8.Place, date and time of opening of financial bids regarding E-Tender.: **District Child Protection Officers, District Child Protection Unit, Bellary.Phone No:08392-241373** . 9.E-mail address to contact for technical information regarding E-Tender.: **http://kppp.karnataka.govt.in**

**For further information:**

- District Child Protection Officers should contact the District Child Protection Unit, Bellary during office hours.
- Website: http://kppp.karnataka.govt.in 2 .
- The authority calling the tender has the power to extend and cancel the tender application date.

**Sd/- District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, Ballari**
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/179

**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**
**(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through KPP Portal Only))

BESCOM invites tenders vide inquiry No: **SEE/KLR/Civil/2026-27/01,** through KPP Portal from eligible bidders for **"Providing Work Station and other allied works for Newly Constructing Malur Sub Division Office Building, KGF Division".** Estimated Amount Put to tender : **Rs. 13.50 Lakhs.** Time limit for completing of work : **1 month (Including Monsoon).**

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP Mode by visiting website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 27.05.2026.**

**Sd/-**
**Superintending Engineer(Elec), O & M Circle, BESCOM, Kolar**

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

Government of Karnataka
**Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga**
No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 25.05.2026

**Short-Term Re e-Tender Notice (Call-2)**
**(Through e-Procurement Portal)**

Short-Term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Department as Forest contractors for the year 2026-27 and having experience of growing saplings of various sizes, plantation advance works and having experience of carrying out similar works as put to tender in the Forest Department and having necessary facility for growing of saplings in the limits of the zone where works have to be carried out for implementation of "Formation of Plantation, Maintenance of Plantation and Maintenance of saplings of various sizes" in the limits of various Forest Zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division including Change of places of work implementation mentioned in e-procurement portal under various Head of Account based on expected Grant for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tenders is fixed as: 01.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga**
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/109/05/277

# Grounded Shreyas dares to live the big football dream

## Teen BFC residential captain from Belagavi hopes to play ISL and represent India

**VIGNESH BHARADWAJ**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Football barely found a place among Shreyas Patil's interests. It only kicked off in 2019 as a bonding ritual between friends in the apartment, and slowly started to take up his time once he made it to the Global Indian International School (GISS) team.

Just like any other school competition, Patil entered the Bengaluru FC Soccer Shield, a tournament that the club organises to unearth new talent, eager to win. And little did he know his life was about to take an unexpected turn.

The Belagavi-born boy immediately caught the eye of the scouts and was drafted into the under-10 BFC team after standout performances.

"I only started playing proper football at nine when I got picked for the school," Patil told *DH*.

"There were many BFC scouts in the Soccer Shield competition. I was awarded the best player and got picked for the under-10 academy by Govardhan sir."

Word travelled fast. Impressive performances in the under-10s was when the coaches got a better inkling of the talent, and to put it to the test, Patil was promoted to BFC's U-13 residential academy at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) in Bellary on a scholarship programme.

"The very next year, I got promoted to the under-13 residential academy in IIS Bellary. And now I've been there till the under-16s."

Patil continued to impress with his versatility as a fullback and a midfielder, but not many expected the greenhorn to keep delivering. The consistency opened the doors to the Karnataka U-16 side, and he was soon appointed vice-captain.

He also led the BFC U-15 team at the Barati Cup in Indonesia, a competition which saw junior teams from Spain and Argentina participate. And then an even bigger door opened: India U-17 camp.

"I was playing for Karnataka, and they called me up for the India under-17 camp. It was great and a very special moment for the family."

The rise has been steep, but it has not been one without challenges. And the greatest difficulty has been spending time away from family. The Patil family lives in Whitefield, a place located roughly seven hours from IIS. And it has been hard for the family to keep making the 365-kilometre one-way trip.

"It is not a joyful ride to miss out on family things, but these decisions are made for a better reward in the future. Important to stay committed, have passion for the game, and hopefully hope for the best."

"My ultimate goal is to reach the BFC first team, play ISL and play for India."

And that's why he keeps on pushing. And now he is on the verge of breaking into the under-18s.

*For feedback, email to dhsports @deccanherald.co.in*

**FACT FILE**

**Shreyas Patil** Age: 15
Birthplace: Gokak, Belagavi
**ACHIEVEMENTS**
- India U-17 camp
- Vedanta Cup winner 2026
- JSW Youth Cup winner 2025, 2026

**TENNIS FRENCH OPEN**

# Sabalenka sizzles in heat

## Medvedev falls in first round; Monfils bids farewell to Roland Garros

PARIS, AFP

Aryna Sabalenka began her French Open campaign with a comfortable win on Tuesday, with the Belarusian top seed hurrying through a 6-4, 6-2 win against Spanish world No. 50 Jessica Bouzas Maneiro as temperatures continued to soar through the first week of the tournament.

The only real blip for Sabalenka as she returned to winning ways on clay after a surprise early exit from the Italian Open was her failure to serve out the match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

But the four-time major winner broke in the next game to book her spot in the second round after just 75 minutes on court.

Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka celebrates after winning her first round match against Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at the French Open in Paris on Tuesday. REUTERS

### Medvedev departs

Russian sixth seed Daniil Medvedev went down in five sets to Australian wildcard Adam Walton.

It was the seventh time in 10 French Open appearances that the former world No. 1 has fallen in the first round.

Rising US star Iva Jovic, 18, further confirmed her potential as she strolled past Alexandra Eala 6-4, 6-2 to book a clash with compatriot and former world No. 8 Emma Navarro, who defeated Indonesian Janice Tjen in straight sets.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 2021 runner-up, ensured he will at least equal his best major performance since Roland Garros two years ago. He showed glimpses of the shot-making that once took him into the world's top three in a match cut short by his opponent Alexandre Muller's retirement through injury.

### Monfils bids adieu

Gael Monfils bade adieu to Roland Garros on Monday as the Frenchman fell just short of pulling off a stunning comeback to lose in five sets to compatriot Hugo Gaston.

The 39-year-old former world No. 6 has been a hugely entertaining and popular character with both fans and his fellow pros alike for the last two decades.

But like his longtime friend and rival Stan Wawrinka, who also lost in Paris earlier Monday, he too shall hang up his racquet at the end of the season.

A first-round 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 6-0 loss to 25-year-old Gaston ended Monfils' emotional farewell to his home Grand Slam.

### Balaji, Yuki win

Indian players N Sriram Balaji and Yuki Bhambri made a winning start in French Open men's doubles with their respective partners, reports PTI.

Balaji and Brazil's Marcelo Demoliner were made to work hard by the pair of Robin Haase and Constantin Frantzen for a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory.

In another contest, Bhambri and his partner Michael Venus got the better of the Argentine pair of Francisco Cerundolo and Mariano Kestelboim 7-5, 6-2 in an hour and 22 minutes to advance to the next round.

## French Open results

**Results: 1st round (prefix denotes seeding) Men:** Matteo Arnaldi (Ita) bt 29-Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) 6-7 (9), 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-3; Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Alexandre Muller (Fra) 6-2, 3-0 ret; Daniel Vallejo (Par) bt 20-Cameron Norrie (GBR) 7-6 (7), 2-0 ret; Moise Kouame (Fra) bt Marin Cilic (Cro) 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-1; Alejandro Tabilo (Chi) bt Kamil Majchrzak (Pol) 6-1, 6-3, 6-4; 16-Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Thomas Faurel (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (6); Facundo Diaz (Arg) bt Zhang Zhizhen (Chn) 6-1, 6-4, 6-3; Zachary Svajda (USA) bt Alexei Popyrin (Aus) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-5; Adam Walton (Aus) bt 6-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4.
**Women:** 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Jessica Bouzas Maneiro (Esp) 6-4, 6-2; 17-Iva Jovic (USA) bt Alexandra Eala (Phi) 6-4, 6-2; Emma Navarro (USA) bt Janice Tjen (Ina) 6-4, 6-3; Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Alice Tubello (Fra) 6-3, 6-2; 4-Coco Gauff (USA) bt Taylor Townsend (USA) 6-4, 6-0; Mayar Sherif (Egy) bt Dalma Galfi (Hun) 7-5, 6-4; Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt 12-Linda Noskova (Cze) 7-5, 7-6 (3); Claire Liu (USA) bt Moyuka Uchijima (Jpn) 3-6, 6-0, 4-1 ret; 30-Ann Li (USA) bt Zhang Shuai (Chn) 6-4, 6-2.

# Messi diagnosed with hamstring fatigue

**MIAMI, AFP:** Lionel Messi remained at the heart of an injury scare only weeks before the World Cup after medical tests diagnosed him with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring, Inter Miami announced on Monday.

The Major League Soccer club's update provided no clear timetable for the Argentine superstar's return after his abrupt exit from Miami's 6-4 victory over Philadelphia in the 73rd minute on Sunday.

The 38-year-old icon for the defending World Cup champions grabbed the back of his left leg and asked to come off, but appeared to be walking normally as he made his exit to the locker room.

"After undergoing further medical tests this Monday, the initial diagnosis indicates an overload associated with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring," Inter Miami said in a statement.

"The timeline for his return to physical activity will depend on his clinical and functional progress."

That gave precious little indication about the status of the eight-time Ballon D'or winner as Argentina prepares to defend the crown in a World Cup co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico that kicks off June 11.

**IN BRIEF**

## Triple crown for Nakshatra

Karnataka's Nakshatra Gumudavelly claimed three gold medals at the Commonwealth Youth Chess Championship in the under-10 girls' category held in Kalutara, Sri Lanka, reports DHNS.

The Velammal Vidyalaya School student scored 8.5 out of 9 points in classic chess, 6.5 out of 7 points in rapid chess and 7 out of 7 points in blitz chess respectively to top the podium in all three categories.

## K'taka women into knockouts

Nilaaya Reddy top-scored with 26 points in Karnataka women's 77-54 win over Punjab during their final league game to top Group A and advance to the quarterfinals of the 76th Junior National Basketball Championship at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Puducherry, reports DHNS.

**Results (final league round matches): Women: Group A:** Karnataka: 77 (Nilaaya Reddy 26, Nidhi Umesh 20, Nireeksha BC 15, Shravani Shivanna 10) bt Punjab: 54 (Priya 25, Tishmeet Kaur 13).

## Rise Again for feature

**MYSURU SELECTIONS**

Fahad Khan-trained Rise Again, to be ridden by C Umesh, will be the favourite to win the The Season Opener Trophy, the feature event to be run over a distance of 1400 meters on Wednesday. The first race starts at 1.30 pm.
**1. The Dubare Forest Plate (Div II) - 1200M:** Perfect Heart 1, Anushtubha 2, Country's Fire 3.
**2. The Melukote Plate - 1400M:** Cloudy Hills 1, Sira 2, Admiral Shaw 3.
**3. The Dubare Forest Plate (Div I) - 1200M:** Starlight Whisper 1, Habibti 2, Zorawar 3.
**4. The Kushalnagar Plate (Div II) - 1200M:** Silver Quest 1, Chief Admiral 2, Golden Sabre 3.
**5. The Beloved Prince Plate - 1100M:** Gold Ride 1, Klimt 2, Sovereign Spirit 3.
**6. The Season Opener Trophy -1400M:** Rise Again 1, Mother's Grace 2, Coeur De Lion 3.
**7. The Kushalnagar Plate (Div I) - 1200M:** Belgownie 1, Red Hills 2, Wood Art 3.
**8. The Trombay Plate 1400M:** Straordinario 1, Royal Baron 2, Malet Spring 3.
**Day's Best:** Straordinario. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. **Mini Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7, 8. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 3, 4, 5. **III treble:** 6, 7, 8.

## Shilpa stars in DYES Dharwad's win

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Shilpa M Kanajanavar scored seven goals (6th, 13th, 22nd, 35th, 36th, 38th, 39th) to power DYES Dharwad to a whopping 16-0 victory over Ever Green Sports Academy, KGF in the Hockey Karnataka (Under-16) Women's tournament here on Tuesday.

While Preeti S Neelaraddi (2nd, 3rd, 10th) netted a hat-trick, Shravani M Chavan (15th, 20th) and Sanjana Huggennavar (28th, 37th) added a brace each. Soumya M Hittalamani (25th) and Sukanya M Jakannavar (29th) contributed one goal apiece in their team's commanding win.

**Results:** DYES Dharwad: 16 (Preeti S Neelaraddi 2nd, 3rd, 10th, Shilpa M Kanajanavar 6th, 13th, 22nd, 35th, 36th, 38th, 39th, Shravani M Chavan 15th, 20th, Soumya M Hittalamani 25th, Sanjana Huggennavar 28th, 37th, Sukanya M Jakannavar 29th) bt Ever Green Sports Academy, KGF: 0; Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bengaluru: 3 (Hasiru 11th, 17th, Anusha 15th) bt DYES Haveri: 1 (Pratiksha 30th); Yes for Hockey Govt. Schools, Bengaluru: 1 (Ikshita R 31st) bt Hoysala Hockey Academy, Bengaluru: 0; SAI STC, Madikeri: 4 (Shaik Sumiya 2nd, Sabitha A 13th, 36th, G Gnaneshwari 26th) bt Jnana Sweekar Public School, Bengaluru: 0; DYES Hassan: 6 (Madhurya GS 13th, Kusumanjali SM 19th, GH Anushya 25th, 33rd, 35th, 38th) bt St Theresa Group of Institutions, KGF: 0.

# Sindhu, Sat-Chi post wins

SINGAPORE, PTI

Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu advanced to the second round of the women's singles competition with an impressive straight-game win over fifth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani at the Singapore Open here on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old two-time Olympic medallist produced a composed performance to outwit the World No. 6 Indonesian 21-17, 21-18 in the opening round of the USD 10,00,000 Super 750 tournament.

The former world champion will next face Japan's Riko Gunji.

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also progressed after battling past world No. 25 Malaysia's Chen Zhi Yi and Presley Smith 26-28, 21-15, 21-13 in the men's doubles opening round.

The world No. 4 Indian pair will take on either Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan or China's Liu Yang and Huang Di in the next round.

However, rising Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty, a finalist at Asia Championships, bowed out after going down 21-11, 14-21, 12-21 to world championships bronze medallist Viktor Axelsen in a 65-minute men's singles clash.

Young Unnati Hooda, who has won three Super 100 titles in last four years, too suffered an early exit, losing 14-21, 10-21 to former world junior champion and eighth seed Tomoka Miyazaki in women's singles.

India's PV Sindhu outwitted Indonesia's fifth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani in the opening round of the Singapore Open on Tuesday. AFP FILE PHOTO

## Sarosh brace in NKFC win

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Sarosh Paul Sha netted a brace while Aagil Antony and Sishan Pandhy found the back of the net as Nadaprabhu Kempegowda FC edged Goans FC 4-3 in a seven-goal thriller in a Group 5 encounter in the BDFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

**Results: Group 5:** East West FC: 1 (Micheal 30th+1) bt Hindu Socials FC: 0; Nadaprabhu Kempegowda FC: 4 (Sarosh Paul Sha 17th, 47th, Aagil Antony 26th, Sishan Pandhy 30th+1) bt Goans FC: 3 (Pardhu Kesave 41st, Gyavin Royz 38th, Sarveesh 53rd)
**Group 6:** Indian Knights FC: 1 (Prajwal Sanjeev Dyamannavar 7th) drew with Shining Star FC: 1 (Rishit Thapa 39th); Freedom FC: 2 (Rieish Kumar A 37th, Dinesh Karthik V 40th) bt ITC FC: 0
**Group 7:** Ambedkar FC: 3 (Pugal 20th, 43rd, Nelson 35th) bt Devanahalli FC: 1 (Aadesh Bhandari 23rd); Minerva FC: 1 (Srihari S 53rd) drew with Bangalore Kickers: 1 (Rajesh PR 11th).

# Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa earn hard-fought victories

**OSLO, PTI:** D Gukesh emerged victorious after a bruising, nerve-jangling marathon battle against Vincent Keymer, and R Praggnanandhaa outplayed Alireza Firouzja but world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen suffered a rare opening-round defeat at Norway Chess, which began amid towering bookshelves at the historic Deichman Bjorvika public library here.

Thanks to his Armageddon triumph after a draining 144-move slugfest that lasted nearly five hours, Gukesh pocketed 1.5 points, while Keymer settled for one after the classical game had ended in a stalemate.

The encounter saw the Indian world champion visibly rattled in the closing stages, even seeking clarification from the arbiter over the move count as the game drifted towards a draw despite Keymer being a pawn up

D Gukesh

The German, however, remained ice-cool throughout the classical battle, continuing to press on before eventually losing the Armageddon decider. But the tie-break itself ended swiftly, with Gukesh unleashing the decisive 15.Bh6, a move that sealed Keymer's fate.

**Results (Round 1) Open:** Alireza Firouzja 3, R Praggnanandhaa 1.5, D Gukesh 1.5, Wesley So 1, Vincent Keymer 1, Magnus Carlsen 0. **Women:** Bibisara Assaubayeva 3, Divya Deshmukh 1.5, Zhu Jiner 1.5, Anna Muzychuk 1, Ju Wenjun 1, Koneru Humpy 0.

## Aussie women edge India in opener

**PERTH, PTI:** The Indian women's hockey team squandered an early advantage to go down a 1-2 against Australia in the opening match of the four-game friendly series here on Tuesday.

India struck first in the opening quarter, with Navneet Kaur converting a penalty corner to give her side an early lead. The Indian defence remained resolute for much of the first half, successfully maintaining their advantage through the second quarter. However, momentum shifted in the second half as Australia's Abby Wilson capitalised on two penalty-corners.

# Karnataka para runners Rakshitha, Sharath claim gold

**ADITYA K HALDER**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's mid-distance runners Rakshitha Raju and Sharath MS **(in pic)** claimed gold medals in the women's T11 and men's T13 1500m events on the opening day of the Indian Open International Para Athletics Championships here on Tuesday.

State-mate Medha Jayanth bagged gold in the women's shot put F33 with an effort of 5.83 metres in the competition, which serves as the final trials for the Asian Para Games.

**Results: Winners and Karnataka only: Men: 100m: T47/46:** Mohammed Basil M (Ker) 10.63s, 1; Babu Janu Pandaramise (Kar) 11.19, 3. **T63:** Vivek Sharma (Pun) 12.92. **T11:** Manoj Kumar Gurjar (Raj) 12.79. **T13:** Sujith MS (Del) 11.35. **T35:** Anubhav Choudhary (UP) 12.91. T36: Chirag (Del) 13.15. **T37:** Rakesh Bhatt (Guj) 11.72. T38: Anandharaj Murugan (TN) 12.49, 1; Devadiga Sachidananda (Kar) 13.44, 2. **T44:** Sandeep (Har) 11.64. **T53:** Kamalakanta Nayak (Odi) 19.49. **T54:** Ramesh Shanmugam (TN) 16.06. **T64:** Pranav Desai (Mah) 11.52. **T12:** Chaitanya Pathak (Mah) 11.39. **T63/T42:** Vivek Sharma (Pun) 12.92. **Discus throw: F64:** Pardeep Kumar (SSCB) 50.47. **F11:** Monu Ghangas (Har) 35.48. **F37:** Haney (Har) 54.03. **Long jump: T47:** Nishad Kumar (HP) 7.34. **Shot Put: F32:** Varun Sharma (Del) 9.27. **F33:** Vishal Sharma (SSCB) 9.50. **F53:** Ayush Verma (UP) 8.39. **F57:** Hotozhe Sema Hokato (SSCB) 15.21. **1500m: T13:** MS Sharath (Kar) 4:11.25. **T20:** Bhushan (Har) 4:41.21. **T38:** Kuldeep Singh (Har) 4:24.66. **T46:** Parmod (Har) 4:06.08. **T54:** Manikandan Jothi (TN) 5:13.74. **Women: 100m: T11:** Lalitha Killaka (AP) 14.66. **T12:** Simran (UP) 12.22. **T13:** Sakshi Kale (Goa) 14.66. **T35:** Preeti Pal (UP) 13.94. **T37:** Bharathi Bharathesh (Kar) 16.99, 1; Harshita Tater (Kar) 17.73, 2. **T47:** Bhavani Valasamgari (AP) 13.28. **T64:** Ritika (UP) 16.19. **T54:** Raziya Md Raihan (TN) 20.66. **Discus throw: F11:** Nidhi Mishra (Del) 23.52. **F37:** Lakshmi (Har) 24.56. **F64:** Dayawanti Dayawanti (Har) 29.14m. **F40/F41:** Vennila Ramu (TN) 17.64. **Shot Put: F33:** Medha Jayanth (Kar) 5.83. **F34:** Bhagyashri Jadhav (Mah) 7.57. **F54:** Keerthika Jayachandran (TN) 6.33. **F57:** Sharmila (Har) 9.86, 1; KS Shilpa (Kar) 6.67, 2. **1500m:** T11: Rakshitha Raju (Kar) 5:17.54.

## Aussie women edge India in opener

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# Kanteerava track cries for attention

**ADITYA K HALDER**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The athletics track at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium looks in a dire strait with the city's iconic venue hosting the four-day Indian Open International Para Athletics Championships, which began on Tuesday.

The synthetic track, which was relaid in 2022 at a cost of Rs 5 crore, now demands a complete overhaul, with the second layer -- black SBR rubber -- visible in multiple patches.

Speaking to *DH* on the condition of anonymity, several para-athletes, including international competitors, expressed their displeasure at the condition of the track, saying it impacted their chances to qualify for the Asian Para Games in Japan later this year. The ongoing tournament, which is hosting all the elite names of Indian para athletics and foreign athletes, serves as the final trials for the Para Asiad, which takes place in Aichi-Nagoya right after the able-bodied Asiad.

Several black patches are visible across the track at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium where Open International Para Athletics Championships began on Tuesday.
DH PHOTO/ ADITYA K HALDER

*DH* also reached out to the organisers, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and Karnataka Athletics Association (KAA) for clarification on the matter. While PCI officials refused to comment, a KAA official said it has been urging the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports to replace the track at the earliest.

The state body also claimed it wrote a letter to the DYES commissioner six months ago in this regard but no action has been taken.

KAA also worries that the Athletics Federation of India may not allot any domestic event to the venue for the next season with its spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla earlier informing the media that World Athletics have flagged the sub-standard quality of track all over the country, fearing that 90% of the tracks require replacement.

Kanteerava Stadium, for that matter, failed to land any of the multi-day national events this season, which went to cities like Ranchi and Bhubaneswar instead. The venue hosted the Indian Athletics Series 1 last April while Tumkaru and Anju Bobby George Foundation in Kengeri were also granted events.

However, the other two venues are unlikely to get any multi-day events as they lack a practice track and is only available at the Kanteerava.

Adding to the worries, the same venue will host the State Senior Championships, which was postponed by a week to June 4-5. All the big Karnataka track and field athletes are set to compete in the event as the top three from each event will make the cut for the National Inter-State Competition in Bhubaneswar from June 24 to 28, the final trials for Asiad.

**◆ ON TV ◆**

**CRICKET**
**IPL:** Eliminator: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals (7:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

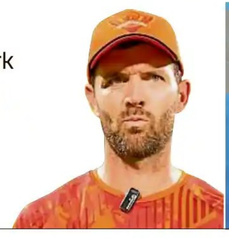
**TENNIS**
**French Open:** Day 4 (round of 32; 2:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

**BADMINTON**
**Singapore Open:** Round of 32 (7:30 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> He (Nitish Kumar Reddy) has done quite a bit of work on his bowling, he has looked as confident as ever with the bat in the early part of our campaign.
>
> **JAMES FRANKLIN**
> **SRH ASSISTANT COACH**



# Titans no challenge to Bengaluru

## Patidar sets up demolition job as Gujarat falter in big chase

**SIDNEY KIRAN**
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

On the eve of the Qualifier 1 clash against an equally potent Gujarat Titans, Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Rajat Patidar said his team is here not to defend but attack. And the skipper walked the talk with a majestic knock before his bowlers responded in resplendent fashion as the defending champions roared into a fifth IPL final here on Tuesday.

Just like last season in Mullanpur how they decimated Punjab Kings by eight wickets in a ruthlessly one-sided Qualifier 1, this time at the picturesque HPCA Stadium, they annihilated 2022 champions Gujarat Titans by 92 runs; a result that was seemingly evident when RCB raked up a record 254/5 which is the highest total in the playoffs.

The protagonist behind Royal Challengers' regal performance with the bat was Patidar. Picking up the pieces after RCB were rocked back by a double blow from Jason Holder in the ninth over following a roaring start, Patidar (93 n.o., 33b) first rebuilt the innings through a counter-attacking 95-run stand off 47 balls for the fourth wicket with Krunal Pandya (43). The skipper then laid the finishing touches through a ruthless exhibition of power-hitting.

When the captain walked to bat in the ninth over, Holder sent back the well-set Virat Kohli (43) and Devdutt Padikkal (30) in a space of three balls. The momentum, which was flowing like a river for the defending champions, was brought to a screeching halt, and Patidar and Krunal had lots of repair work ahead of them.

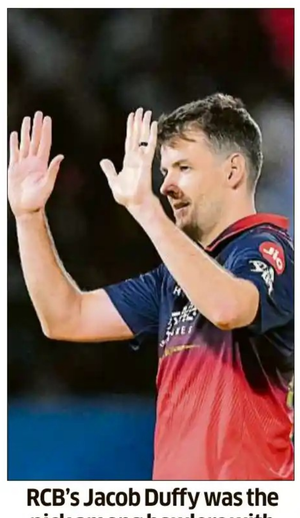
A solid spinning all-rounder, who has found an extra wind in the twilight of his career with RCB, the 35-year-old Krunal batted with confidence alongside Patidar. Initially, the duo decided to play cautiously as RCB were already motoring at around 10 runs an over. Momentum in T20s can shift at the snap of a finger, and RCB got the tide flowing back when, in the 15th over, both Patidar and Krunal collectively creamed Kulwant Khejroliya for 28 runs. In an instant, RCB sped to 168/3, and with five overs to go, the foundation was laid for the final assault.

That's when Patidar took charge. Having upped his game this season to a higher level, Patidar, dropped on 20 by Kagiso Rabada, tore apart the potent Gujarat bowling attack ruthlessly. The onus was on playing the lofted shots, and he belted nine sixes to shift the game completely towards RCB. Flicks and punches over covers, Patidar was regal personified on the day. By the time he was done batting, Gujarat fielders were left gasping for breath in the thin Dharamsala air.

Although totals over 200 have been chased with ease this IPL, Gujarat needed a Herculean effort if they were to scale the new peak set by Royal Challengers. The hopes hinged heavily on the top three of Sai Sudharsan (the Orange Cap holder), skipper Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler — the trio who have done a vast majority of the lifting for Gujarat. But when Challengers dismissed them for 51 inside the Powerplay, the writing was on the wall.

Jacob Duffy, returning to the squad for the all-important game, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Rasikh Dar bowled exceptionally, not just picking wickets at regular intervals but never letting the noose around Gujarat loosen for one moment. Eventually, Gujarat folded up for 162 in 19.3 overs, Royal Challengers punching the direct ticket for the final in Ahmedabad on May 31. Gujarat have two days to nurse their wounds before getting themselves battle ready for Qualifier 2 on Friday where they will have another shot at making the final.

Skipper Rajat Patidar hammered an unbetean 33-ball 93 to power Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a 92-run victory against Gujarat Titans at the HPCA Stadium on Tuesday. PTI



RCB's Jacob Duffy was the pick among bowlers with an effort of 3/39 as Gujarat Titans' chase faltered in powerplay. AFP

**SCOREBOARD**

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU:** Venkatesh Iyer c Gill b Rabada 19 (7b, 3x4, 1x6), Virat Kohli b Holder 43 (25b, 5x4, 1x6), Devdutt Padikkal c Buttler b Holder 30 (19b, 5x4), Rajat Patidar (not out) 93 (33b, 5x4, 9x6), Krunal Pandya c Sudharsan b Rabada 43 (28b, 5x4, 2x6), Tim David b Prasidh 4 (5b), Jitesh Sharma (not out) 15 (5b, 1x4, 1x6). Extras (B-1, LB-1, NB-2, W-3) 7. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 254.**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-21 (Iyer), 2-93 (Kohli), 3-94 (Padikkal), 4-189 (Krunal), 5-214 (David).

**Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 3-0-46-0, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-54-2, Jason Holder 4-0-39-2, Rashid Khan 3-0-29-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-53-1 (w-2), Kulwant Khejroliya 2-0-31-0 (w-1, nb-2).

**GUJARAT TITANS:** Sai Sudharsan (hit wicket) Duffy 14 (9b, 3x4), Shubman Gill b Bhuvneshwar 2 (7b), Jos Buttler b Hazlewood 29 (11b, 4x4, 2x4), Nishant Sindhu c&b Dar 5 (3b), Washington Sundar c Hazlewood b Duffy 8 (8b, 1x4), Jason Holder c Hazlewood b Dar 0 (3b), Rahul Tewatia c Patidar b Bhuvneshwar 68 (43b, 8x4, 4x6), Rashid Khan c Jitesh b Duffy 8 (9b, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada c Kohli b Pandya 9 (5b, 2x4), Mohammed Siraj c David b Krunal 5 (13b, 1x4), Prasidh Krishna (not out) 6 (7b, 14). Extras (LB-1, NB-1, W-6) 8. **TOTAL (all out, 19.3 overs) 162.**

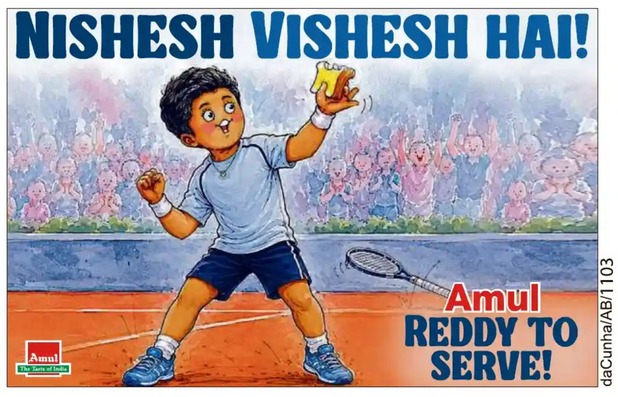
**Fall of wickets:** 1-17 (Sudharsan), 2-27 (Gill), 3-51 (Buttler), 4-51 (Sindhu), 5-51 (Holder), 6-65 (Sundar), 7-78 (Rashid), 8-88 (Rabada), 9-156 (Tewatia).

**Bowling:** Jacob Duffy 4-0-39-3 (w-1), Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-28-2 (w-1), Josh Hazlewood 4-0-39-1, Rasikh Dar 3-1-24-2 (w-3, nb-1), Krunal Pandya 3.3-0-16-2 (w-1), Romario Shepherd 1-0-15-0.

**Result:** RCB won by 92 runs.

**PoM:** Rajat Patidar.

**RCB's next match:** Final vs winner of Qualifier 2 (May 31, Ahmedabad).




# Verma retained as State Sr selection panel head

## Gayathri to head senior and U-23 women's committee

BENGALURU, DHNS

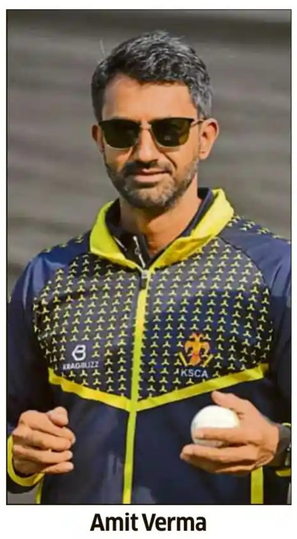
Amit Verma will continue as chairman of the Karnataka State Cricket Association's senior men's selection committee for the 2026-27 season after the KSCA managing committee approved the recommendations made by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).

The CAC, comprising former India cricketers Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Sunil Joshi and former India women's player Jayshree Doraiswamy, finalised the selection panels after what the association described as a transparent process.

The recommendations were approved by KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad and team.

Tejpal Kothari, Suneel Raju and Suresh Shanbal will serve alongside Amit in the senior and U-23 men's panel. Gayathri KR will head the women's senior and U-23 selection committee, while S Prakash and Umesh GN will chair the U-19 and junior men's panels respectively.

Mala Sundareshan has been appointed chairperson of the women's U-19 and U-15 panel.



Amit Verma

**KSCA selection panels: Men: Senior & U-23:** Amit Verma (chairman), Tejpal Kothari, Suneel Raju, Suresh Shanbal.
**U-19:** S Prakash (chairman), Raghavendra, Vivek MP, Ananth DS.
**U-16 & U-14:** Umesh GN (chairman), KM Aiyappa, P Sriram, Dhananjaya S.
**Women: Senior & U-23:** Gayathri KR (chairperson), Dr Nivedita, Leena G, Spoorthi P.
**U-19 & U-15:** Mala Sundareshan (chairperson), Hemalatha, Puja Panchal, Meena Kumari.

# BATTLE OF TWO BATTING BEHEMOTHS

**KEY PLAYERS** **SUNRISERS HYDERABAD** Recent form (latest result first): W, W, L, W, L

**HEINRICH KLAASEN**
Perhaps one of the most brutal hitters of the cricket ball, Klaasen has been in his elements this season, scoring 606 runs at a good strike rate of 159.47. What sets him apart is his ability to pick the length early, and he's comfortable against both pace and spin.

**PAT CUMMINS**
Given SRH are thin on the bowling front, they'll be banking on their skipper Cummins. He'll be up against the prodigious Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, and this match-up could dictate the course of RR's innings. If Cummins can conjure his experience against the kid, then SRH would have won half the battle.

**KEY PLAYERS** **RAJASTHAN ROYALS** Recent form (latest result first): W, W, L, L, L

**VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI**
Last season itself, many pundits had marked him as one for the future, and the 15-year-old wunderkind has shown the future is here with some astonishing batting. He has scored at a scarcely believable strike rate of 232.27, showing no fear whatsoever against the best in the business.

**JOFRA ARCHER**
With RR thin on bowling resources and up against a fiery SRH batting line-up, a lot will depend on Archer's heroics. A good day for him will mean less leather chasing, but if he endures a bad day, then RR fielders will have a lot of running to do.

**STRENGTHS**
The Sunrisers have one of the most explosive batting line-ups. Openers Abhishek Sharma (563) and Travis Head (393) have laid the foundation while one-drop Ishan Kishan (569) has upped the tempo beautifully. No. 4 Heinrich Klaasen (606) has been in a league of his own.

**WEAKNESS**
There was a time when the Sunrisers had the best bowling attack amongst all teams. With the focus having shifted completely to the other skillset, the Sunrisers have struggled on this front. Skipper Pat Cummins (8) boasts the best economy rate of 8.67, with all others going over 9.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS NETWORK
**7.30 PM**

## In-form Sunrisers take on resurgent Royals in Eliminator today

**SIDNEY KIRAN**
DHNS

Batting fireworks are set to light up the night summer sky of the Mullanpur Stadium (New Chandigarh) as an ammunition-loaded Sunrisers Hyderabad take on a resurgent Rajasthan Royals in a winner-takes-all Eliminator clash on Wednesday.

Between the two sides who only know how to bat one way, which is to come out of the gates swinging at anything and everything, it'll be the 2016 champions Sunrisers that would be feeling slightly more confident of advancing to Qualifier 2. Not because of their superior 14-9 head-to-head record or having beaten Rajasthan in the last five meetings, it's their collective batting might and multiple match winners in the top five that give them a distinct edge.

Right at the top, Sunrisers have Travis Head (393) and Abhishek Sharma (563), possibly two of the most destructive openers in world cricket. Like he has been doing since the 2024 season, the 25-year-old Abhishek has set the tempo often with his dashing batting, scoring at a scorching strike rate of 206.22.

Head, at the other end, hasn't necessarily fired on all cylinders this season, managing a modest strike rate of 168.66 but one doesn't need any reminding of the Australian's ability to raise his game in big matches.

Then there's one-drop Ishan Kishan (569), who has continued to dazzle in a career-redefining season by playing clutch knocks whenever the team has needed it, followed by Heinrich Klaasen (606) with the South African powerhouse enjoying his best IPL season so far. If that's not enough, Nitish Kumar Reddy (264) and Salil Arora (121) played those cameos right at the end. It took a little while for the potent force to click as a unit, but from the moment they've done, they have looked irresistible.

Hoping to defuse this collective force on his own is a dynamite called Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The 15-year-old wunderkind has taken his game to a whole different level in his third season, scoring 583 runs at an astonishing strike rate of 232.27 to leave the cricket world spellbound. At an age where he should be worried when the ball is hurled at over 140 kmph, Sooryavanshi has taken apart the best in the business with no fear whatsoever. Even short balls don't budge him, the southpaw standing and depositing them into the stands comfortably. If Sooryavanshi gets going, then SRH could be in for a serious leather hunt.

The worry for 2008 champions Rajasthan, who started strongly before losing their way and rediscovering it at the end, is that they banked heavily on Sooryavanshi's magic. His opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal (397) has blown hot and cold, with wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel (458) being the only other consistent batter. Skipper Riyan Parag (272) and his middle-order partner Donovan Ferreira (267) really have to step it up come Wednesday.

SRH also have a slight edge on the bowling front with Eshan Malinga (19) complementing Pat Cummins (8) since the skipper's return from injury midway through the season. But Rajasthan have Jofra Archer (21), who can cause massive damage on his day. In short, it's the collective firepower of Sunrisers vs the individual brilliances of Rajasthan.

**STRENGTHS**
Just like their rivals on Wednesday, Rajasthan will be depending heavily on the batters to get the job done.

In Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (583), they have the most exciting young talent in world cricket, Yashasvi Jaiswal (397) is the match-winner, while Dhruv Jurel (458) is one of those silent warriors who delivers without a fuss.

**WEAKNESS**
Beyond Sooryavanshi and Jurel, the batting has been a bit of a concern with skipper Riyan Parag (272) and Donovan Ferreira (267) struggling for consistency. On the bowling front too, barring pace ace Jofra Archer (21), others haven't looked incisive enough

| RECORD IN PLAYOFFS | |
|---|---|
| SRH | RR |
| Won: 6 | Won: 3 |
| Lost - 8 | Lost - 6 |

**SRH VS RR** — SRH 14 | 23 Mats | RR 9

This season
**P: 2**
**SRH: 2, RR: 0**

**Pitch** In three out of the four games Mullanpur has hosted this season, the lowest score is 200/5 and the highest has been 254/7. It's been a batting beauty and expect nothing less on Wednesday.

**Conditions** It'll be another brutal summer day with temperatures set to peak at 43 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 29 with no rain expected.

## Shahidi to lead Afghanistan in India series

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Left-handed batter Hashmatullah Shahidi was on Tuesday named captain of the Afghanistan squad which will play a one-off Test and three ODIs against India from June 6 to June 20.

While the ODI squad features top players including Rashid Khan, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, and Ibrahim Zadran, the Test team comprises a blend of experienced campaigners and emerging talent, with Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Azmatullah Omarzai forming the core of the batting group.

Wicketkeepers Afsar Zazai and Ikram Alikhil have also been included, while the spin department will rely on Sharafudin Ashraf and Qais Ahmad.

Bilal Sami, Zia Sharifi and Saleem Safi will spearhead the pace department.

Interestingly, Afghanistan have opted for a slightly different combination in the ODI setup, bringing back seasoned stars Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan for the white-ball leg of the tour.

Afghanistan will start their tour with a one-off Test from June 6 to 10 at New Chandigarh before embarking on a three-match ODI series. The first ODI will be held on June 14 at Dharamsala, followed by the second game on June 17 at Lucknow and the third ODI on June 20 in Chennai.

**Afghanistan squads: One-off Test:** Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Abdul Malik, Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rahmanullah Zadran, Afsar Zazai (WK), Ikram Alikhil (WK), Azmatullah Omarzai, Sharafudin Ashraf, Nangyal Kharotai, Qais Ahmad, Bilal Sami, Zia Sharifi, Saleem Safi.
**Reserve pool:** Bashir Ahmad, Bahir Shah, Ismat Alam.
**ODI series:** Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK), Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Rahmat Shah, Ikram Alikhil (WK), Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharotai, AM Ghazanfar, Zia Ur Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Malik, Bilal Sami.
**Reserve Pool:** Qais Ahmad, Saleem Safi, Bashir Ahmad.

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